



STORE'S £45M SITE VOW IS WELCOMED

Report by Jonny Drury

A FRESH commitment from Morrisons that it still wants to develop a derelict site that once formed part of a proposed £45 million leisure and shopping complex has been welcomed by civic leaders and business bosses.

More than two years after the plans for the complex were shelved, Morrisons has vowed it is still working to develop the Smithfield site on Shrewsbury Road in Oswestry.

It was originally earmarked for a five-screen cinema, a Morrisons supermarket, as well as a Frankie and Benny's and McDonald's, but the plans fell through when Cineworld pulled out in 2015.



The proposed site has now become derelict

Plans for Comic Con festival for town unveiled

A NEW convention for comic book and film lovers is coming to Oswestry.

Businessman Martin Portlock has set a date for the town's very own Comic Con festival.

The event will take place on August 4 and 5 at Oswestry Leisure Centre, and Mr Portlock is hoping a celebrity will launch the convention.

"As someone who is passionate about the town and has lived here for quite a few years now, I thought what can I bring to Oswestry?" Mr Portlock said.

"We have Comic Con Wales which is very, very successful, and Llangollen and Telford have similar events which people love going to, so why not have one of our own here in Oswestry?"

"I want to do something that everyone can look forward to and that will be an attraction to the town for outsiders. There's something from all generations at these events."

Hundreds of thousands of people attend Comic Cons around the world every year to celebrate pop culture, science fiction, movies, sports, comic books and more.

In a letter to Oswestry Town Council, Morrisons, which leases the land, said: "We remain committed to delivering a development at the Smithfield site and continue to explore the options available to us for its use. Unfortunately this can be a lengthy process but we want to reassure you that work continues behind the scenes to bring this site into use."

"In this regard I can confirm that we are working towards the appointment of a development partner to promote and deliver a viable redevelopment of the site." The firm vowed to send a team to tidy up the site as soon as possible.

Former Mayor Paul Milner said: "I am so pleased to hear they are going to do something about the state of the site because I have said before it looks a disgrace."

"I am not sure it has had an economic impact on the town, but it certainly doesn't look good as a gateway into Oswestry. What I would ask is for them to keep us informed about the plans, which I hope will be positive and in the best interests of the town."

Chairman of Oswestry Business Improvement District Ian Follington said: "From the point of view of BID anything that happens to that site is a positive thing, and the news from Morrisons is welcome news. We would support any investment in the site, because that is BID's role, to bring investment into the town."

Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt said the response from Morrisons, which was discussed by town councillors on Monday, was the first communication the council had received in months. He said: "I asked the town clerk to find out what was going on with the site because there were a number of concerns from members of the public who said it looked scruffy."

"We can chip away and say what we think should be done with it but it's down to Morrisons as they have the land for the next 110 years. My hope is that they pull their finger out now and something happens sooner rather than later."

Perfect pumpkins on parade!



Lynda Jones with just a few of the 50,000 pumpkins at Llynclys Hall Farm Shop. Photo: John Sambrooks.

DOWN on the farm it is not wheat or maize being grown but smashing pumpkins.

About 50,000 pumpkins are being harvested at the Llynclys Hall Farm Shop near Oswestry ready for Halloween.

Richard and Lynda Jones have been growing pumpkins at the farm for the last 20 years.

They planted a small pumpkin patch after they noticed how many of them were growing in a field on an American holiday and the crop proved so successful the acreage has grown every year.

This year they planted 10 acres and expect to pick 50,000 pumpkins and squashes of every size,

shape and colour. Visitors to their farm shop this autumn can not only choose their own pumpkin but can get recipes for using the flesh and seeds from the pumpkins.

Children can play in the pumpkin barn and over half term families can enjoy events that include storytime sessions and creating autumnal art.

Pumpkins are also sent to wholesale markets to be sold to shops across the region.

Mrs Jones said: "We are not into scary Halloween and pumpkin lanterns and pumpkin carving are such great things for people of all ages to enjoy. We now produce all different varieties of pumpkins."

TRANSPORT

Border lines must be forgotten in road battle, says MP

BORDER lines must be forgotten when looking at improvements to the A5 and other English/Welsh roads, an MP has said.

Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, said he was doing all he could to press for improvements to roads such as the A5 and A483 that run through both countries.

And he revealed that more than 30 years ago when the Oswestry bypass was first mooted he and other members of the then Montgomeryshire planning committee recommended construction be refused until the road could be built as a dual carriageway. Mr Davies said he had been working alongside North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson for many years to press for improvements to the local road network.

He said the England/Wales border should not hinder improvements.

"There should be no border when infrastructure like the road network is involved," he said.

"I would like to see the Welsh and the English government's work together to ensure that the A5 and A483 improvements are made."

The Chronicle's sister paper the Shropshire Star has launched a campaign calling for the A5 at Oswestry to be dualled.

● Chiefs - See Page 16

DEMOCRACY

Constituency could be lost in shake-up

THE Boundary Commission for Wales is pushing ahead with plans which could see the end of the historic constituency of Montgomeryshire.

The commission has released updated plans for the future of the seat following the latest consultation.

The plans as they stand would see Welshpool come under a new Clwyd South and North Montgomeryshire constituency. A further consultation will now be held.

● Reprieve - See Page 18

INSIDE

Pupils produce Matisse magic



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Associate Editor: Iain St John:
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Reporter: Sue Austin: 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk

Reporter: Jonny Drury 01691 668098
jonny.drury@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sport: Dave Cooper: 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk

Photographic: 01691 668094

Regional advertising sales manager:
Alison Jukes: 01743 283330
alison.jukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Advertising supervisor:
Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sales representative:
Connor Harris: 01691 668090
connor.harris@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sales representative:

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

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Council's failings 'put children at risk of harm'

Report by Jonny Drury

CHILDREN in Powys have been exposed to a serious risk of harm due to a lack of leadership and management, according to a damning report by an inspector-ate.

A Care and Social Services Inspectorate (CSSIW) report into Powys County Council's children services uncovered serious failings in leadership, which led to children being placed at a risk of harm across the county.

The council have been given 90 days to address the failings, or face being taken over by ministers.

The lengthy report says opportunities to safeguard children have been missed, despite request for support.

The review, which took place in July, found in two cases there was an awareness of potential child sexual exploitation and vulnerability of going missing. However, inspectors found evidence in three cases where child sex exploitation protocols were not adhered to.

Inspectors said: "Children and young people do not appear to be well served by the current arrangements for accessing support services in Powys."

"A lack of assessment, care and support planning combined with an inconsistent approach to working in line with the child sexual exploitation guidance and the management of sexual exploitation and risk assessment framework process placed children at risk of harm."

Council leader Rosemarie Harris has apologised and said: "We fully accept the regulators' recommendations, their report is both hard hitting and challenging."

"We are sorry that we failed to meet the high standards residents deserve and apologise for our shortcomings."

"The council is totally committed to safeguarding children in our county, and I will be leading the council's response to the recommendations of the inspection from the front as a top priority and that ensuring that the resources are in place to underpin this work."

Jean puts wind in her sails aged 86



Jean Hughes, aged 86, from Oswestry, who has recently taken up sailing at Shropshire Sailing Club at Ellesmere

AN inspirational 86-year-old has proved you're never too old to take up a new hobby.

Jean Hughes from Oswestry has ticked another wish off her bucket list by learning how to sail.

The pensioner is the oldest person to take up the sport at the Shropshire Sailing Club, near Ellesmere, after going along to an open day earlier this year.

"Learning to sail was on my bucket list," she said. "I have always enjoyed new challenges and thought sailing would open up a

new world of experiences. It's certainly living up to my expectations and I am really enjoying getting out on the water, especially being able to lean out when going fast."

Jean's only previous sailing experience came when her family bought a small dingy, which they put on the roof of the car and took to Bala Lake to try out. But it didn't go to plan and she said they had to row the boat back to shore.

She added: "I have gone to the club on Saturdays when possible and found the

people there very friendly. I'm so thankful God has given me good health so that I have been able to try this with help and encouragement from everyone at the sailing club."

John Ridgers, RYA training principal at Shropshire Sailing Club, taught Jean on her Start Sailing course. He believes it is the first time someone new to the sport has started sailing at the club in their eighties.

He said: "Jean was a delight to teach. Her enthusiasm and the speed she picked up new skills were outstanding."

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Roadworks' lights leave motorists frustrated

FRUSTRATED motorists were left stuck in gridlocked traffic at temporary roadworks in Oswestry.

Due to works on a sewer flooding issue on Gobowen Road, temporary traffic lights were put in place near to permanent traffic lights.

The work began on Tuesday last week and left motorists frustrated at considerable delays. Jack Price from Oswestry was stuck in traffic on Thursday and criticised the organisation of the work.

He said: "It basically took me 20 minutes to get from China Palace to the Llwyn Road junction on Beatrice Street, which is usually a journey that takes seconds. The system they put in place was never going to work as when lights were on green heading out of town, the traffic would be on a red light at the junction next to the medical centre."

Shropshire Council's senior network manager Gary Parton said the Severn Trent Water works were to resolve the sewer flooding issue.

He said a permit was issued on an emergency/urgent basis. He said: "Four-way temporary signals are required in order for the works to be completed; however, due to the traffic-sensitive location, Shropshire Council have insisted that the traffic signals are manually controlled to minimise disruption as much as possible."

History group to meet up again

POWYS Family History Society Montgomeryshire Group is welcoming members and non-members to its next meeting.

On October 28 from 2pm, Mary Oldham, librarian at Gregynog, will give a talk on Gregynog estate at Guild Room Baptist Chapel in Newtown. Contact m.annieowen@gmail.com for details.

Campaigners say homes plan is unsustainable

Report by Mark Andrews

PLANS to build nearly 29,000 extra homes in Shropshire over the next 19 years have been attacked by the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which has branded them "unsustainable".

Charles Green, of the CPRE in Shropshire, said the planning proposals put forward by Shropshire Council made a mockery of a consultation which the authority conducted earlier this year.

The majority of people who responded to Shropshire Council's earlier consultation expressed a wish for "moderate" housing growth, which would have seen 26,250 homes built by 2036.

However, officers are recommending that the cabinet should endorse proposals for a total of 28,750 homes to be built.

The cabinet was due to meet yesterday (Wednesday) and if the cabinet approves the proposals, they will then go out for further consultation. Mr Green, who lives near Oswestry, said the plan, which could also allow houses to be built on the green belt, risked damaging the county's rural character.

"To say that CPRE Shropshire is disappointed by Shropshire Council's housing recommendations would be a gross understatement," he said. "We are concerned that its plans are about the numbers and growth game and not about providing the houses that are really needed in the right places." He said that contrary to common belief, the CPRE was not against new housing development in the county.

The organisation was, though, he said, mindful of the need to ensure that its special qualities were protected and that the right types of housing were built in the right areas to support the varying needs of a diverse population.

"Simply, housing growth for Shropshire over the period to 2036 of 28,750 new dwellings is unacceptable," he said, questioning the methodology the council had used to come up with the figure.

Andrea leaps into Henson's world



Head archivist Karen Falk, Andrea Wright and archivist Susie Tofte with The Fraggles at the Jim Henson archive

A LECTURER from Shropshire had a rare glimpse into the archive of legendary Muppets creator Jim Henson as part of new research.

Andrea Wright, a senior lecturer in film studies at Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, spent a week delving into the unique and largely undiscovered archive to research Henson's connection to fairytales. She is a former student of Rhyn Park School in St Martins and North Shropshire College in Oswestry.

With permission from Henson's family through the Jim Henson Company Archive, Andrea travelled to Long Island City, New York and was granted access to the collection.

There she was able to see first-hand famous characters such as the Count and Elmo from Sesame Street as well as from his other shows such as Fraggle Rock.

Andrea said: "It was amazing to see such a large and varied archive, passing famous puppets and props

to look at sketch books, photos, storyboards and letters.

"The head archivist Karen Falk and the Henson family have been very supportive and I was able to meet Jim's daughter, Cheryl Henson, president of the Jim Henson Foundation."

Andrea added: "Despite Jim Henson's evident influence on the on-screen fairytale there is little academic work on his contribution to the genre."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man admits he attacked victim

A MAN has admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Joseph Ashley Doyle, 26, of Longfield, Chirk, near Oswestry, pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawfully and maliciously inflicting GBH on Anthony Carter during an incident in March.

The prosecution case was not opened at this stage.

At Mold Crown Court, Judge Rhys Rowlands bailed Doyle pending sentence so that a pre-sentence report could be prepared. The judge said that at the sentencing hearing, the court would need to see the CCTV footage of the incident on the night.

Hillfort planning plea is rejected

CALLS to remove a controversial site from Shropshire's housing plan have been rejected by planning bosses.

Oswestry Hillfort campaigners have asked for the site near the ancient monument to be taken out of Shropshire Council's SAMDev document after it was revealed there is now a surplus of housing land.

But planners have said all sites included in the blueprint still have an important part to play in maintaining a healthy supply. Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council's planning policy and strategy manager, said: "All the sites allocated for housing within the current Local Plan were considered in detail and endorsed by an independent planning inspector as part of the examination of the plan in 2014."

Trial date set for cruelty claim case

A TRIAL date has been set for a man accused of causing unnecessary suffering to horses, cats and dogs. The trial of Paul Wyatt, 58, who has denied 15 animal cruelty charges, is set to start in April.

The charges relate to premises in Dudleston Heath, near Oswestry, between December 12, 2016 and February 3, 2017.

Wyatt's trial is due to start on April 23 at Kidderminster Magistrates Court.

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James Corfield, 19

Fundraiser in memory of teenager

STAFF at an estate agents are attempting to raise over £8,000 in memory of a teenager who died at the Royal Welsh Show earlier this year.

James Corfield, 19, from Montgomery near Welshpool, went missing at the show in BUILT WELLS in July, prompting a large scale search with family, friends and members of the public aiding the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team.

However on July 31, Mr Corfield's body was found in the River Wye.

Members of staff at Norman Lloyd Estate Agents in Mid Wales

were part of the search party looking for the talented farmer and cricketer in July, and they have decided to host an auction and evening of entertainment in his memory.

The event will take place at Welshpool Livestock Market on Friday next week with the funds going to help the mountain rescue team.

The evening of entertainment will include a live band, a jazz band from Welshpool High School, a hog roast and an auction.

The estate agents are still on the look out for auction prizes. Call (01686) 626496 for details.

Fresh hopes are raised for improved rail link to capital

Report by Sue Austin

EXTENDING the London to Shrewsbury train line northwards through Shropshire could be part of new tenders for the West Coast service.

At least one company considering bidding for the tender to run the rail service says it would be looking to put the Shrewsbury to Chester line in the network.

Currently the hourly London to Shropshire service ends at Shrewsbury.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has been campaigning for a better service to Gobowen, Chirk, Wrexham and Chester, along with colleagues including Wrexham MP

Kittens dumped in cardboard box

TWO kittens abandoned in a cardboard box were found in a children's play park.

The pair were discovered by a dog walker in Morda, near Oswestry.

RSPCA inspectors are appealing for help in finding out who dumped the five-month-old black kittens, who have since been given a clean bill of health by vets.

RSPCA inspector Phil Lewis said: "It is absolutely unthinkable why anyone would deem it acceptable to dump two defenceless young kittens in a cardboard box like this."

"They were found on the morning of October 8, and somebody must know something about the circumstances behind this alleged abandonment."

Anyone with information about the kittens or the owners have been asked to contact the RSPCA's appeal line on 0300 1238018.

ian Lucas. He says he has been in "encouraging" talks with Malcolm Brown, chief executive of Angel Trains, a company specialising in rolling stock but which is looking at bidding for the West Coast tender early next year.

"The company believes in extending the line north through Shropshire to Chester," Mr Paterson said.

"There is no need to spend a lot of money on electrifying the line when modern, diesel trains are as fast as electric trains. The money should instead be spent on the track, signals and points."

"It was really encouraging that Mr Brown, a very senior figure in the rail industry, has the same views."

"We have to show the government that is absolutely essential that the Shrewsbury/Chester line is included in the bid. I discussed this with Transport Minister, Chris Grayling."

Mr Paterson, who has admitted he travels to London via Crewe because of the unreliability of the Shrewsbury route, said that the Shrewsbury/Chester line was once of the same standard as the London/Shrewsbury route.

Man is airlifted to hospital



An air ambulance lands at the Chirk AAA ground to attend the emergency on Monday

A MAN was airlifted to hospital with serious injuries after an accident in Chirk near Oswestry.

The man was injured at the Chirk AAA ground on Holyhead Road, just after 10.30am on Monday.

It is believed he may have been using cutting equipment although that has not been confirmed.

The Welsh Air Ambulance said it sent a helicopter to the scene and that a man was airlifted to Wrexham Maelor Hospital with serious injuries.

Communications officer Liam Randall said it appeared the injuries were accidental.

The Chirk AAAs complex includes a recreation ground with football pitches and playground and also includes a sports and social club.

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Proposed solar farm would not need abnormal loads

Report by Sue Austin

NO abnormal loads would be needed in the construction of a community solar farm near Oswestry, if it gets the go-ahead.

Plans for the movement of equipment and materials for a proposed 2,588 solar panel farm near Rhydycroesau include re-routing the largest of the vehicles several miles to the south along county roads.

The proposed renewable energy park at Cefn-Y-Maes has brought objections from local residents who say they are concerned about the access to the site, just off an historic drovers' road.

Funding for youth work could be cut

FUNDING for youth activities could be cut completely in some of Shropshire's most rural areas, it has been revealed.

Shropshire Council said it is planning to reduce the budget by nearly 50 per cent from £234,950 to £135,000 from 2018.

Money will be spent in six areas which the council has identified as having the greatest need – Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth, Whitchurch and Ludlow.

But 12 other local joint committee areas – such as Wem and Shawbury, Ellesmere, Shifnal and Sheriffhales, Albrighton and Bayston Hill which have previously received funding – are set to lose out on financial support.

Under the plans Shrewsbury would receive £45,000, with the other five areas receiving £18,000 each.

The proposal is detailed in papers ahead of a meeting of the council's cabinet.

The cabinet was due to meet yesterday (Wednesday) to discuss the plans.

The report states: "The reduction in the number of LJC areas receiving funding results from the proposed removal of rurality funding from 12 existing LJC's, and the re-focusing of resources to the main market towns where the needs are greatest."

Trees down as storm hits hard



This tree came crashing down in Morda Road in Oswestry during the storm

FALLEN trees brought down in the wake of Storm Ophelia caused long delays for motorists across Shropshire and Mid Wales.

A large tree blocked the entrance to a housing estate in Oswestry on Monday during the storm.

The tree had fallen on the entrance to houses next to Oswestry Cricket Club, just off Morda Road.

Officers from West Mercia Police advised people to take care while driving in the bad weather.

Boots in Welshpool town centre were forced to close after the high winds dislodged slates from the roof

Firefighters were called to Broad Street

just before 2pm to remove a number of loose tiles from the roof of the shop and secure the surrounding area.

A crew from Welshpool Fire Station and the aerial team from Llandrindod Wells were on scene.

The worst of the storm hit Ireland where a woman in her 50s and a man in his 30s were killed as the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia hit. About 120,000 homes in the Irish Republic, and 4,000 in Wales, were without power as schools closed early and bridges were shut. And, although winds were not as violent over the West Midlands, the storm caused disruption with around 15 flights from Birmingham Airport grounded.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

The closure of NatWest Bank's Welshpool branch is hardly a surprise and though it is another blow to the town centre it really is a sign of the times with nearly 500 bank branches set to close doors this year.

Internet banking has become more common and is being actively encouraged by all the major banks and we even now have a growing number of online-only options such as Charter Savings Bank bringing more opportunities to the table. As technology develops the need to visit your bank has diminished. Ask yourself how many times you used to visit your local branch five years ago and how many times you have been this year and you start to realise that we are being slowly weaned away from face-to-face banking.

Like just about every other business it's now all about profits and margins and absolutely nothing to do with customer care anymore. Gone are the days when a bank manager really was someone in the community. In fact, I don't even know who my bank manager is these days.

For those happy to use online banking this is welcome news with customers even being told they can clear a cheque in just 24 hours by taking a photo on their smartphone or iPad. As someone who recently had to wait five days for a very important cheque to clear that's a welcome development.

We also have to question whether we have brought the closures on ourselves. How many customers have become too reliant on their friendly bank staff to sort out problems they should be doing themselves? If, like me, you have been stuck behind such people in the queue you will know exactly what I mean. And unfortunately figures speak for themselves. In 2011 there were 478 million customer interactions in Britain's bank branches. This year there will be less than 280 million. The average now is 78 visits a day which the banks claim to be unsustainable. But there is still justifiable anger out there from those, especially the elderly, for whom smartphone banking and contactless cards hold few attractions. Age UK says 4.6 million over-65s are not online and journeys to branches are getting longer for them. I fear our screams of protestation will fall on deaf ears though. How long will it be before we can Skype our bank from home for instance? And as much as I sympathise when communities lose banking facilities the next generation will regard bank branches as things of the past.



Farmer Richard Yates has concerns about the plan



Could wolves live in this Shropshire landscape?



Andrew Fusek Peters chaired the wolves discussion

Will wolves return to the door of our countryside?

Plans to re-introduce the wolf to our countryside have been debated in the county. By TOM OAKLEY.

THEY have been absent from the English countryside for some 500 years but could wolves be on the point of making a comeback?

After being hunted to extinction because of their predatory nature, there are now proposals to re-introduce wolves to rural areas.

And a panel met in Shropshire recently to discuss how comfortable the county would be with "rewilding" – the process of restoring habitats, bringing back living systems and repairing ecological damage.

It comes after the reintroduction of wolves to the Scottish Highlands, beavers in Devon and wild boar in the Forest of Dean.

Richard Yates, who farms cattle and sheep near Bridgnorth, was part of the panel and believes the move would cause significant harm to the sheep industry.

Following the evening, which took place at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, the former president of the NFU in Shropshire said he had been pleased to take part in the debate.

But he believes it would be a bad idea to introduce predators back into the wild from the point of view of the county's farmers.

Mt Yates said: "It was a pleasant occasion. There were about 50 in the audience of which many had rewilding tendencies. "Clearly it is good to have dialogue with all those caring for our countryside and talking is good."



Wolves have been extinct in England for hundreds of years

"Interestingly, the gentleman Tony Haighway from Bishop's Castle, who has half a dozen wolves on 70 acres was against the reintroduction of wolves into Shropshire – simply on the basis that there isn't the eco system for them to thrive.

Talk

"It's always good to talk and explore these possibilities.

"It was well received and many people were sympathetic to the needs of farmers who are working hard to earn a living and feed our nation while also caring for the environment."

Mr Yates joined other wildlife experts, enthusiasts and authors who gathered together with theatre group Pentabus Theatre Company, based in

Bromfield, near Ludlow for the event which was titled An Evening About Rewilding.

It came ahead of the group's next production Wolves Are Coming For You, which is about to start rehearsals and gets to grip with the subject.

Mr Yates added: "Dog attacks on sheep is something I have to worry about a lot. I've had plenty in the past and it's estimated that 150,000 were attacked in this country last year.

"Hence why any additional predators in the environment will call for any local shepherd to be concerned.

"Farming in this country is entering a fork in the road.

"If we have a bad Brexit it may decimate the sheep industry depending on what deals are done.

"So any additional factors that would harm the sheep industry would concern me."

The evening was chaired by award-winning Shropshire landscape and wildlife photographer and author Andrew Fusek Peters.

Giving different perspectives on the contentious subject were panel members including author Jay Griffiths whose most recent works include Wild: An Elemental Journey, and Kith: The Riddle of the Childscape; Anthony Haighway, wildlife enthusiast and founder of Wolf Watch UK, which has a sanctuary on the Shropshire border with Mid Wales and rewilding expert Alicia Leow-Dyke, Welsh beaver project officer from Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

Oliver award nominee playwright Joel Horwood also discussed the inspiration behind his new play, Wolves Are Coming For You, commissioned by Pentabus, which will be touring nationally this autumn.

The event took place as five landowners in Mid Wales said they would consider taking part in a project to re-introduce lynx into the country.

In 2015, the Lynx UK Trust put out a plea for anyone who would be willing to allow their land to be used and now they say five landowners have come forward.

The conservation group has submitted plans to re-introduce the Eurasian lynx to Kielder Forest in Northumberland on a five-year trial period.

If approved, it would import six of the cats from Sweden.

If the Lynx UK Trust wanted to bring the animals to Wales, it would have to apply for a special licence from Natural Resources Wales.

However, the plans have been met with objection from the National Sheep Association who fear the animals would pose a threat to sheep.

WORKING FOR YOU



Tourism contributes over £126.9 billion to the UK economy, supports over 3.1 million jobs and is the lifeblood for many communities across the country. There have been record-breaking inbound visits and spend this summer, which are testament to the UK's world-class attractions and the innovation of our tourism industry, especially in rural regions. From January to July this year there were a record 23.1 million overseas visits to the UK, up eight per cent on the same period last year. Visitors spent £13.3 billion, up nine per cent. Forecasts predict overseas visits to the UK increasing by six per cent to 39.7 million this year with spending up 14 per cent to £25.7 billion by the end of 2017; both the number of visitors and the amount they spend are new records.

Shropshire has a great number of places to visit, including historic houses and castles with beautiful gardens. In North Shropshire we are fortunate to live in such an unspoilt part of the country with five market towns and almost 100 villages. During the General Election campaign in June, I was stopped by two Germans in Chirk Bank who were asking for directions. They had specifically chosen Shropshire when planning their tour of the UK.

That same afternoon a narrowboat full of visitors from The Wirral were passing through on the Llangollen Canal. There are over 46 miles of canals in North Shropshire and thanks to restoration efforts they are keenly traversed by walkers, canoeists, fishermen and photographers. Our canals go through Ellesmere, Market Drayton and Whitchurch which provide a much welcome boost to pubs, restaurants and shops. Local volunteers combined with lottery money have done a great job extending the Montgomery Canal towards Llanymynech. Once completed and possibly combined with the further extension of the Cambrian railway there are great opportunities exploiting the Roman history and the industrial archaeology in the area.

Rural economies will continue to diversify; we need to improve our infrastructure and create the right conditions to encourage these businesses to thrive. This includes bringing fibre broadband to holiday cottages and improving roads, such as dualing the A5, to cater for increases in visiting traffic, welcoming people to our glorious countryside for generations to come.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP



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The reasons why names really matter

WHAT we call ourselves matters a lot. Take Anthony Blair, the only way he thought he could win an election was to re-brand himself Tony, man of the people. Those adoring crowds after the 1997 election hailing him. Seems a long time ago. In truth a brown paper bag with a Labour rosette pinned to it could have won the 1997 election. In 1997 after 18 years of Tory rule the UK voters knew it was time for a change, the same could happen at the next

election if Parliament staggers through to 2022. Corbyn as PM? What would he do with that £3 billion plus aircraft carrier the UK has just commissioned? Flog it to his mate in Venezuela to house political prisoners maybe. I bet David, sorry Dave Cameron is glad he's out of it. More time to send annoying letters to the local paper complaining about local services? Goodness, am I turning into Dave Cameron?

I knew that Ireland played rugby union as a unified team, but I only found out recently that the RNLI operates in the south of Ireland even though it is the ROYAL National Lifeboat Institution. The Royal may be hard for some to live with, but I think that some time ago at lot of sensible people decided that saving lives and sport are a darned sight more important than politics.

PETER STEGGLES
Longnor

We must set a date for speed limiters to end road deaths

PRINCESS Diana: the People's Princess, and the most photographed woman in the world; a smile like no other; on a planet like no other.

And, from Aids to landmines, she's saved millions of lives.

She's also a road crash victim, and since her death, more than 25 million men, women, and children have been killed in road crashes.

Not to mention deaths from exhaust fumes.

Given man's ingenuity, the United States has approved a treatment which re-designs a patient's immune system to attack cancer. Also, in the new Forth road bridge, the UK has 'the best bridge in the world'.

Furthermore, a hand held device has been designed to detect concussion from saliva. It can be used in boxing, rugby, in the playground, on the battlefield, and indeed in the 'war on our roads'.

If it makes sense, to use hand-held devices to detect concussion in children and cyclists who've been hit by motor vehicles, it would be nothing short of insane not to use speed limiters to stop drivers breaking speed limits - prevention is better than cure.

With speed limiters, we'd still have Diana, and William and Harry would still have a mother.

If we can have a target date to end the production of petrol fuelled cars, (to save the planet), given that it's over 100 hundred years since the death of pedestrian Bridget Driscoll in 1896 - the United Kingdom's first road crash victim - why haven't we got a target date for ending road death?

Not to, is surely speeding towards Carmageddon.

ALLAN RAMSAY
Radcliffe

Immigration level has put terrible strain on services

FOR too long our politicians have allowed our border security to be run down, thus putting immigration to become a burning issue amongst voters.

Britain has a proud tolerant tradition of welcoming migrants, and most have contributed much to our country, but since 2004 and Tony Blair's Labour government, opening the doors and pushing through as many as they could get in, we have been swamped by EU citizens.

This isn't racism, it's about numbers. It put massive strains, on the NHS, schools and housing.

It brought down wages with its cheap labour policy, that's why it can only be good news that there has been a fall in net migration from EU states.

We are only a small country and simply could not go on with the amount of people flooding in. There are still 127,000 Europeans arriving than those leaving and that still needs to be reduced.

B ELLIS
Leominster

Town football team from nearly 50 years ago



See how many names of these players of Oswestry Town Football Club that you can remember - if any, of course as we're going back nearly 50 years to 1968. The names are not clear but here goes: Broadhead, Partington, Burgis (?), Lavery (? very difficult to read), Ken Morris, Grayson, Ryan. And then below is written Mason, Smith, Windsor, Craig, and Humphreys.

Stumbling block put in the way to stop Brexit

AT a meeting in London of employees in the European Union Medicines and Banking industries 75 per cent expressed their desire, in a vote, to stay put in London after Brexit regardless of whatever are the wishes of the EU.

Apparently it seems the super clever European Union Commissioners negotiated unbreakable leases with property owners in the city.

And if they do leave then the European Union becomes liable to pay out in excess of half a billion pounds in compensation to them.

This is one of the stumbling blocks to their dealings with us on Brexit.

If the European Union decides to go they want the British taxpayers to pick up their bill.

Up to now our negotiators are saying no and the European Union don't like being caught out and shown up to be incompetent.

Better out for us methinks.
ADRIAN WILLIAMS
Bratton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

ian.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Three Lions may never roar again

I JUST cannot see how England can become a real force in international football any time in the near future.

To get back to being of great international standing many more English-born players must play in the Premier League and in my opinion, all teams should be limited to two or three players born outside the United Kingdom, however I just cannot see this happening. Money talks and how, just to see some of the salaries of these players is totally obscene.

MR K BEDDIS
Yockleton

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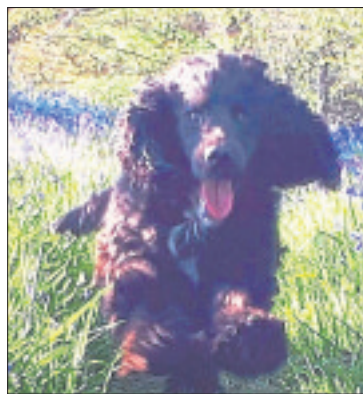
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Cathy's Booth's little black cocker spaniel Tilly



Bear the sheepdog loves buttercups



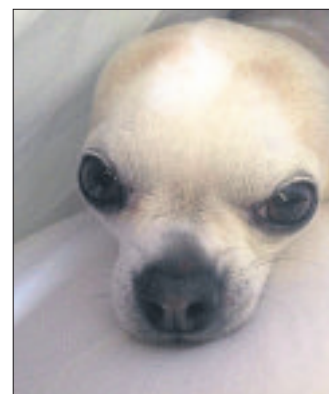
Tim Gears' pride and joy Pippa



Miniature dachshund Lotte



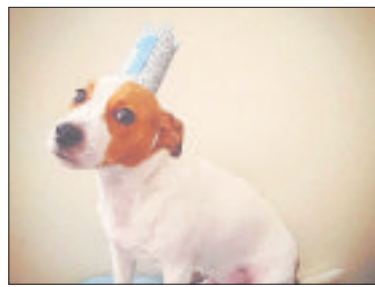
Bob, a 23-month-old Staffie



Ted barks at the heating when he's cold



Cathy Booth's cockerel and hen



It's birthday boy Barry, the Jack Russell

Furry and feathery friends face camera

MORE of our readers have sent in photos of their beloved pets for our Animal Crackers competition.

We are asking you to send in your favourite photo of your pet.

We will select our 10 favourite photos and then it is up to our readers to decide which picture deserves the £100 cash prize.

Send you pictures to news@oswestry-chronicle.co.uk

Hannah Beaman from Ellesmere has sent in a photo of Bear, her nine-month-old sheepdog, posing with buttercups.

Jenny Skam from Presteigne sent in a photo of Bob, her 23-month-old Staffie.



She says: "He is very affectionate and friendly and overall is the family's best friend."

Cathy Booth from Bishop's Castle sent in three photos.

Hector, her black and white springer spaniel, is 12 years old and the photo was taken in Blakeridge Woods near her home. Cathy's little black cocker spaniel is Tilly who is three years old and again the photo was taken in Blakeridge Woods.

Cathy also sent in a photo of her cockerel and hen.

Tim Gears sent in photos of his "pride and joy" Pippa. He said: "She is an 11-year-old brindle staffie and has a flare for selfies."

Kayleigh Pugh from Welshpool entered her dog Barry the Jack Russell terrier into the competition.

She said: "I've sent a photo of him representing me a little bit for making him wear a birthday crown."

Sue Holmes from Oswestry has also entered the competition, sending in a photo of her miniature dachshund Lotte.

Valerie Farquharson has entered her dog Archie and Cheryl Harris sent in a photo of her dog Ted.



Archie with his unwrapped present



Hector, a black and white springer spaniel

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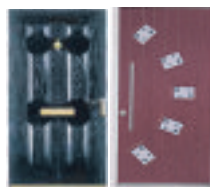
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Bank and hospice to team up for 12 months

SEVERN Hospice has been chosen by an Oswestry bank branch as its charity partner for the coming year, bosses have announced.

TSB Oswestry will support the charity for the coming year, it has been announced.

Tracy Van-Mook, bank manager, TSB Oswestry said: "Our local charity partnership programme is all about working in partnership to help support the local causes that are the lifeblood of many communities across Britain.

"It's what we're all about at TSB and we are now entering into our third year of supporting a local charity here in Oswestry.

"I am thrilled to announce Severn Hospice as our new local charity partner which is close to our hearts here in Oswestry.

"We can't wait to get started." Mike Perry, community fundraising advisor at the Severn Hospice, thanked the bank for backing the charity, which helps families from Shropshire and Mid Wales.

He said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as TSB Oswestry's new local charity partner."

Mr Perry added: "The bank's support will make a really positive impact on our charity and the work we do here in Oswestry."

TSB has given more than £1.7 million to local causes across Britain since its local charity partnerships launched in 2015.

This year a record 27,000 nominations were received from local charities across the country to join the programme which sees TSB Partners from 550 branches and eight office sites volunteer and raise money on behalf of the chosen charities.

Firm's long term plans may bring 100 new jobs

Report by Sue Austin

MORE than 100 jobs could be created at Chirk's Kronospan factory if its long term plans become reality.

The chipboard firm says it would like to start making a new product, called OSB, which is replacing plywood in the construction industry.

The company told Alan Cairns, the Secretary of State for Wales, that if it starts making the product it would create the jobs at its factory, near Oswestry.

Mr Cairns travelled to the factory to discuss its investment and renewal plans.

He said he welcomed the news about the new jobs.

"Since manufacturing began at its Chirk site 45 years ago, Kronospan has played a crucial role in helping to demonstrate why Wales continues to be a prime location to invest and do business," he said.

The politician said he was hugely impressed by the company's plans.

The company, which employs 350 people in Chirk, is planning to invest £200 million over the next three years updating and renewing its existing facilities. Chairman Mike McKenna said that as part of its investment plan, Kronospan would like to start producing OSB, replacing imports.

"It is increasingly important for building badly-needed new homes and would in itself create 100 jobs at the Chirk site," he said.

"We aim to make our Chirk site one of the best factories of its type in the world and we are investing in the best available technologies to secure jobs and reduce our environmental impact."

Castle's ghostly past in new TV series



Historic and picturesque Whittington Castle is said to be haunted

THE paranormal past of a castle will be uncovered in a new TV series about the country's most haunted haunts.

Whittington Castle near Oswestry is steeped in historical tales of bloody battles, treachery, deaths, ghostly visits and paranormal activity.

A team from Search for the Truth spent a night at the 13th century fort.

They were at the historic building in a bid to catch a glimpse of the phantom blacksmith in his leather apron, the ghostly children who are regularly spotted peering out of an upstairs window or the medieval knight allegedly seen standing on the bridge.

Dan Moss, host and lead investigator, said: "We're going around six different locations to see if they're really haunted and conducting paranormal investigations.

"We chose Whittington Castle as a location because there's lots of folklore eye-witness accounts.

"I can't yet reveal what we found but it will all be revealed later this year."

Search for the Truth starts on Tuesday on Sky channel Made TV and Freeview channel 7.

Whittington Castle is the last in the six-part series.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The life of bees is theme of talk

THE North Shropshire and Borders Smallholding and Country Living Group is due to meet again.

At its next meeting the group has two of its beekeeping members, Alan Baguley and Roger Jones, giving a presentation.

The presentation is called "a life in the modern beehive".

The meeting is on Wednesday next week at The Bradford Arms in Llany-mynech and the meeting will be starting at 7.30pm.

As usual anyone who is interested is very welcome to come along.

The cost for visitors is £5 single/£7.50 couple.

For more information call the chairman Su Carlin on (01952) 740242 or go to the website at www.northshrop-smallholder.co.uk.

Cash boost for workhouse project

AN appeal to save the Master's House at Llanfyllin's historic Workhouse has received encouraging support.

The Architectural Heritage Fund, which provided a loan to buy the building in 2004, has given a Project Development Grant of £1,900.

Other help has come from the Oakdale Trust, the Skinners' Company's Lady Neville Charity and the Bodfach Trust. This has enabled the Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust to commission Llanrhaeadr architect Richard Payne to produce a specification for the vital roof repairs, draw up plans for the interior and prepare drawings for the restoration of the fine classical cupola that once crowned the building. Two events have helped to increase funds. An opera evening attracted a near-capacity audience and Open Doors, Wales's Heritage Open Day, produced a record attendance of nearly 500.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Graduate Amy joins up with team

AN estate agents has welcomed a new graduate rural surveyor to the team.

Amy Thomas has joined Roger Parry and Partners at their Welshpool office.

She completed a year placement while at Harper Adams University and was offered a job as a trainee after achieving a degree in rural enterprise and land management.

Tudor Watkins, partner in the Welshpool office, said: "We are delighted that Amy has re-joined our team after successfully completing her degree."

"It is important as a profession that we help to train the next generation of chartered surveyors."

Dancers delight crowds at fringe

A DANCE production with high-flying aerial stunts created in Powys wowed crowds at the recent Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Powys Dance joined fellow Welsh company Volcano for the final five days of the world's largest arts festival to perform their production of Flying Atoms.

The interactive show has toured schools in Mid Wales and has now been adapted for venues across the UK.

Powys Dance director Amanda Griffin said: "We're so proud to have taken a production created from start to finish in Powys by artists living here to this world-renowned festival."

"This production marks a real step change for the company and we are enjoying showing audiences and colleagues just what we can do."

Land subsidies 'could depend on mast deals'

Report by Sophie Madden

FUTURE subsidies to landowners in Wales should be conditional on them allowing mobile phone masts on their land, according to a Welsh Assembly committee.

Montgomeryshire AM Russell George is chair of a committee looking into the proposals and says it would help boost connectivity across the country.

A new report from the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee calls on the Welsh Government to consider innovative ways to connect the last four per cent of Wales without broadband access.

The committee is also asking the Welsh Government to consider reforming the planning regime to improve mobile phone coverage across the country.

Mr George said: "Connectivity is no longer a 'nice-to-have' in our daily lives."

"For many people and businesses we spoke to during our inquiry, it's now considered an essential service - like electricity."

"Wales's landscape and population spread poses challenges in a world where market forces determine broadband and mobile phone coverage."

Mr George added: "More can be done to help people take up those services once available and to take potentially controversial steps to ensure that the connectivity many of us take for granted is available to all."

Visitor numbers are music to ears



Powis Castle in Welshpool is one of the reasons why tourist numbers are up

IT boasts castles and coastlines, mountains and moorlands - and newly released figures confirm the beauty of Wales is attracting people to make it their holiday destination.

Whether its rural Mid Wales and attractions such as Powis Castle and Llanrhaeadr Waterfall, the splendour of Snowdonia and rugged Llangollen or seaside resorts more people than ever are picking Wales for short or longer breaks.

Events such as Llangollen's Eisteddfod and food festival are also bringing in holidaymakers.

Latest visitor figures show that the 'Land of My Fathers' has won more tourists staying for more nights than the rest of Britain.

The weak pound could be one of the reasons for the increase as holidaymakers, many from Shropshire and the Midlands, opt for 'staycations'. The Welsh government has also run major advertising campaigns over the last two years. It billed 2016 the Year of Adventure for Wales in an international marketing project while this year has been the Year of Legends.

Farm union welcomes pub chain's new menu

A NATIONAL pub chain has launched a food menu in support of the Welsh farming industry.

The National Farming Union Cymru has welcomed the move by JD Wetherspoon to introduce a Welsh menu.

The new menu, which is printed in both English and Welsh, showcases a range of food and drink from suppliers across Wales, as well as meat from Welsh farms.

Wetherspoon's regional manager for West Wales, Richard Bond, said: "We are proud to serve a standalone menu in our pubs offering the best of Welsh food and drink, alongside our regular menu."

"It is a wonderful opportunity for our pubs to offer superb Welsh-produced products."

It is available across all 50 Wetherspoon's pubs in Wales.

NFU Cymru president, Stephen James, said: "I'm delighted to hear the news that a well-established high-street pub chain like JD Wetherspoon has introduced a new Welsh menu in its establishments across Wales."

In doing so they are complementing the plethora of other independent pubs and restaurants across Wales who already prioritise providing their customers with Welsh produce.

"This increased backing can only be a good thing for the Welsh food and drink industry and, consequently, Welsh farmers and growers."

"I'm sure this Welsh addition to Wetherspoon's menu will prove extremely popular with punters in Wales."

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Volunteer sought for day centre

A CHARITY is urgently looking for a volunteer to help out at a day centre for older people.

Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin needs to recruit someone to co-ordinate a small team of volunteers at its centre in St Martins near Oswestry.

Cedar Close Community Rooms is open on Tuesdays from 10am to 3am and provides members with refreshments, a hot meal, activities and various outings.

The role involves co-ordinating a small team of volunteers, delegating specific roles and responsibilities, such as serving refreshments, as well as offering a stimulating variety of activities for members.

Call (01743) 588570 for more information.

Schools make the grade in review

SOME of Shropshire's most successful schools have been chosen to feature in this year's edition of the Parliamentary Review.

The document has become a key fixture in the political calendar since it was established in 2010.

St Martins School near Oswestry, Adams' Grammar School in Newport, and The Telford Langley School were chosen for the 2017/18 edition which showcases best practice.

The Parliamentary Review's director, Daniel Yossman, said: "St Martins School and other hardworking organisations from across the country have come together to make this year's review possible. Sharing knowledge and insight with both peers and government is essential work and I am delighted that this year's review will reach every corner of the British economy."

Health bosses back new review into injury units

Report by Amy Downward

HEALTH officials have said "things need to change" as they backed a review of minor injury units in Shropshire.

At a meeting of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, bosses said access to community services were currently based on proximity rather than clinical need.

It comes after a review into community care in Shropshire was launched.

The review will look at the county's four minor injury units (MIUs) in Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Whitchurch, community beds and also DAART – a specialist service including assessment by an expert in older people.

At a meeting of the CCG in Shrewsbury, health officials gave their backing to the review.

Dr Tim Lyttle, locality chair for north at Shropshire CCG, said: "In Whitchurch there is a strong case for change. We are missing some key services at the community hospital like DAART. The MIU unit is also underused."

"I don't see any hint in the paper that there are plans to close Whitchurch Hospital."

"Instead it seems there are plans to strengthen the hospital and offer more services which we would welcome."

Dr Deborah Shepherd, locality chair for Shrewsbury and Atcham, said: "This is not a cutting service exercise but more about seeing what we are doing well and how we can spread that out across the county."

A four-week engagement exercise will now be carried out before options are presented to the CCG board in January.

Driver charged after collision in village



The wreckage of the Vauxhall Astra at the crash scene. Photo: @OsCops

A MAN has been charged with drink-driving after a car crash in a village near Oswestry.

Alex James Boden, aged 29, of Penycrae, Wrexham, was charged with the offence after a crash involving a Vauxhall Astra in Whittington.

Boden will appear before Telford Magistrates Court on October 31.

The incident happened on a road in Whittington after 11pm on Thursday last week.

The Vauxhall Astra car came off the road and crashed, causing considerable damage to the front of the vehicle.

Oswestry's Safer Neighbourhood Team posted a picture of the crashed car on Twitter.

They confirmed at the time that the driver had been arrested.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, a road near Oswestry was closed to allow police to reconstruct a car accident.

Police took to social media on Tuesday last week to inform road users there would be short closures on the A483 between Morda and Pant.

Shropshire's Operational Patrol Unit said it was reconstructing a collision.

The work was complete by 2pm.

Land agent urges caution over farming rents rises

A LAND agent has warned an increase in rent could be troublesome for farmers this year following Brexit negotiations.

Sarah Wedge from David Meade Property Consultants which is based in Oswestry has urged landlords to be cautious regarding farm rents this year.

"Most farmers are facing challenging times and so a letter from their landlord seeking an increase in rent will have a much greater impact than usual," she said.

"Although most farming sectors are seeing good farm-gate prices and milk prices are rising towards where they were before the crash, we are still in uncertain times."

She said the key for farmers is "not to panic" if they receive a rent review notice.

"There have been many cases over the last three years where rents have stayed the same following a rent review notice being served, as landlords have accepted it is not the time to increase rents but have served the notice to protect their position," she said.

She said: "There have even been instances where tenants have been able to turn the rent review into a rent reduction."

Tenants have at least a year to agree rent after a review notice is served.

It is dependent on the type of tenancy and the terms of that tenancy on how the rent is to be calculated.

Sarah added: "However, each review is case specific and so the key message at all times to tenant farmers, is to seek advice from their agent or a tenancy specialist before accepting a rent increase."

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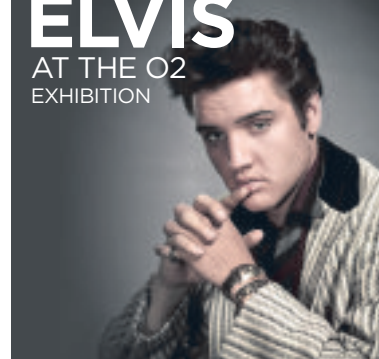
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver Neil takes home the trophy

A MEMBER of the Oswestry team of family-owned builders' merchants General Building Plastics, pressed the pedal to the metal to race to victory in the company's annual go karting cup competition.

Local man Neil Crofts won the GB Plastics Anniversary Cup, which was launched in 2015 as part of the company's 25th birthday celebrations. The cup will take pride of place at the Oswestry branch at Maes-y-Clawdd for the second consecutive year.

"Our annual go-karting event is not only an excellent team building and fun occasion, it is a fantastic opportunity for all the team from across our Midlands network to get together," explains GB Plastics' managing director Alan Sutherland.

The event was held at Daytona Karting in Tamworth, and Neil completed the lap in the fastest time.

Teamwork helps out disabled man

MEMBERS of Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club and friends have improved the life of a young disabled man in the town.

The team have worked with Kim Gilchrist from the housing support service Bromford to fit new carpets, move heavy furniture and fit curtain poles. The equipment was given by the community interest enterprise Chalk.

President Ian Slipper said: "It was a great example of what can be achieved by a small number of people working together to improve the life of someone. It is even more effective when they work together with other charities and organisations like we did here."

Region's waterways see new record levels of volunteering

A RECORD number of volunteers have come forward over the last 12 months to look after the area's canals.

North Wales and Borders' historic waterways have seen record levels of volunteering – five years after they were transferred from state control and entrusted to the Canal & River Trust charity and local communities.

The trust's annual report shows a continued increase in support across England and Wales's 2,000-mile waterway network. It reports a rise in the number of people donating to the charity's work as well as a significant growth in volunteering, which topped half a million hours for the first time.

Volunteers from Shropshire, Powys, Cheshire, Denbighshire and Staffordshire, donated over 43,000 hours helping to look after the region's 230 miles of canals and rivers over the last year.

Brenda Harvey, chair of the Canal & River Trust's North Wales & Borders waterway partnership, said: "Five years ago the Canal & River Trust was given the responsibility for the historic waterways and set out how it planned to give local people much greater involvement in looking after them."

"Here we are in 2017 and there are more people than ever supporting our work through donations or volunteering their time. Locally we've worked with such a diverse variety of individuals, groups and organisations who all recognise the potential of their local waterways and want to play a part in making them better, and we're incred-



Volunteers from Network Rail got involved in a project to spruce up canal locks

ibly grateful for their support." Over 40 volunteer lock keepers gave more than 6,500 hours to assist boaters through the region's locks and pass on their local knowledge, helping visitors to find nearby shops, pubs and picnic spots.

Thirteen local community groups adopted their nearest stretch of canal or river, committing to help the trust on a regular basis by picking litter, clearing overgrowing vegetation and planting waterside gardens.

Other volunteers supported the

trust by getting involved in one-off activities, working in the office, helping the trust's education team or joining a towpath taskforce event to keep the canal bank neat and tidy. To volunteer, donate or view the annual report, visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Farmers are reminded to keep rural roads clean

FARMERS are being reminded not to leave mud and debris on rural roads that could potentially lead to an accident.

The warning has been issued by the Safer Roads Partnership and West Mercia Police, ahead of the busy time for farming with crops being harvested and transported.

The force have said the increase in farm vehicles on the road traditionally sees a rise in road collisions, with many being preventable.

Since the start of 2015 there have been 65 collisions across West Mercia involving agriculture vehicles, with the most significant proportion occurring near farm turns due to poor overtaking and inappropriate speeding.

Under the Highways Act 1980, farmers and contractors have a legal obligation to ensure their vehicles are cleared of any mud or debris before entering the public highway.

Warwickshire and West Mercia Police chief superintendent Steve Cullen has warned farmers of their responsibilities and said they will continue their tough stance against anyone not complying.

He said: "Every year we face problems with agricultural vehicles leaving large amounts of mud and debris on the roads during the harvest season."

"While the majority of farmers take steps to ensure they keep the roads clear and safe, not all are as diligent."

Mr Cullen added: "We would like to remind farmers and contractors of their responsibilities under the Highways Act."

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Coin statue will flip tale of Midas

Report by Sue Austin

FIRST there was the spoon gorilla, then the knife angel.

Now the British Ironwork Centre is hoping it has the Midas touch with its latest statue of the greedy king.

The tourist attraction near Oswestry has commissioned a sculpture of the king made from the new £1 coins.

The Myth of King Midas sculpture depicts the King's gift of turning everything he touches to gold, a wish that turns out to be a curse when he turns his beloved daughter to gold.

Theatrical designer and set maker, Debbie Rees Deacon, has been commissioned to create the sculpture from 1,000 coins.

"It is the most unusual and most costly singular object that I have worked on to date," she said.

The face of the statue will be designed by Andrew Blake, a theatrical prosthetics and masks specialist with Mormid Masks, based in Kent, and a friend of Debbie.

Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Ironwork Centre said: "The crown that will sit on the King Midas statue's head will be encrusted with £2 coins."

The statue is expected to be ready for visitors to see at The Ironworks Halloween Spooktacular on Friday next week. Another creation being worked on by the centre staff at the moment is a bust of HRH The Queen that is being created from thousands of tin cans.

Pupils from across Shropshire and beyond have been saving tin cans as



Artist Debbie Rees Deacon will be creating the sculpture from coins

part of recycling projects at school and donating then to the centre.

Visitors to the attraction have become used to seeing a collection of the weird and wonderful.

Spoon bender, Uri Geller commissioned the sculpture of a gorilla made from thousands of donated spoons

and flew into the Ironwork Centre to unveil it. The most poignant statue is that of the Knife Angel which was created from tens of thousands of blades confiscated by police or handed in during a nationwide amnesty.

Craftsman Alfie Bradley turned the knives into a mesmerising statue.

Raise a glass to a great meal out

Commercial feature

With the days getting shorter and autumn now here, now is the time many people are thinking about how to celebrate the festive season.

There are very things more enjoyable than a lovely meal out over the autumn and winter months and we are spoiled for choice in the Oswestry and Welshpool area which has a wide variety of excellent restaurants and hotels to choose from.

Choosing the right drink is as important as choosing the right meal when you are our wining and dining.

If you are a meat or seafood fan, there are many lovely wines to choose.

Here are the best styles to pair with spicy, smoky, tangy meats, grilled veggies and seafood.

Why not try Gable & Grace Shiraz Mouvedre 2016 and Gable & Grace Chenin Pinot Grigio 2016, from the Western Cape in South Africa?

Not only do these bottles have sleek, elegantly restrained labels, inside they have some serious class too.

The Chenin Pinot is crisp and fruity, and brings a sharp and refreshing tang when paired with grilled chicken skewers and corn on the cob.

The shiraz has warmth and depth, and a tangle of blackberry flavours discernible beneath, which goes perfectly with coal baked sweet potatoes, glazed belly pork and ribs.

Or try Barton & Guestier Passeport 2016, Cotes de Provence Magnum, France.

Thanks to the rose revolution, more magnums are within reach, so you don't have to worry about your friends sinking the pink before the dips and dressings have made it to the table.

A real peach with floral aromatics reminiscent of orange groves, it's fresh and fruity with summer berry flavours and bright citrus and herbal notes which make it the perfect rose.



Choosing the right drink for a meal is as important as choosing the right food

Then there's the Pikes Riesling Traditionale 2016 from Clare Valley, Australia.

Dry riesling has long been a sommelier's favourite, so why not introduce this versatile, food-friendly white to your taste buds?

Bone dry and clean as a whistle, the rush of acidity makes it a perfect choice with spicy sausages such as merguez and barbecue pork.

The winemakers' expertise has been awarded

with a stash of gold medals and we love the pristine aromas of lemon and lime in this sprightly white.

Dada No. 1 Malbec Bonarda 2016 comes from Argentina.

Almost too much of a good thing, you may have to reign your taste buds in before diving into this soft, lush, inky black.

A blend of dark, brooding malbec and fruity



There is a wide range of drinks to choose from when you are wining and dining

bonarda, it draws you in with intense violet and blueberry aromas and then cushions you with rich, plummy damson fruit and a trail of blackcurrant, vanilla and sweet oak.

Savour with melt-in-the-mouth meat.

And then there is Nero D'Avola 2014 from Sicily.

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Health

Patient pays a tribute to nurse's care

A PATIENT has paid tribute to an 'inspirational' nurse who went above and beyond the call of duty to care for her.

In March 2017, Bethany Eason was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive tumour in her knee.

Prior to this, she discovered she had fractured her leg twice, and was admitted to her local hospital, before being transferred to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

At one point she was in such pain that she told the nurse that she wanted to die.

One of the nurses caring for Ms Eason was Pip-Page Davies, who has been short-listed for the hospital's Patient Choice Award, after Ms Eason's nomination.

She thanked the nurse for her support and care, and said she shared "blood, sweat and tears" with her during her time in the hospital. She said: "As my nurse, Pip respected all my wishes throughout my journey, I could certainly not have coped if it wasn't for nurses like Pip who are amazing and inspirational people."

Other nominees for the hospital's Patient Choice Award are consultant spinal surgeon, Shashank Chitgopkar, extended scope practitioner Gill Lawrence and Mary Watkins, a specialist psychologist rehabilitation practitioner.

Eyes have it with £5k grant

THE trust which controls Shropshire's two main hospitals has been given a £5,000 donation for its eye department.

The money donated by Sight Loss Shropshire will go towards a new visual fields machine for the ophthalmology department at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Philippa Downes, senior orthoptist at SaTH, said: "The ophthalmology team has gratefully received a charitable contribution from Sight Loss Shropshire towards a new visual fields machine."

"This machine will allow very specific visual fields and binocular function testing for adult and paediatric patients. SaTH had two machines that were over 50 years old, and one of the machines had failed and could not be fixed. This new machine will replace the one that has failed and will mean patients will benefit from more modern and accurate equipment."

Andrew Evans, operational manager at SaTH, said the machine would be in use by the end of this month.

Robin Durham, secretary for Sight Loss Shropshire, said the machine would be of huge benefit to patients at the hospital.

Fresh idea for RSH farm shop

PATIENTS, visitors and staff could soon benefit from a farm shop in the grounds of Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Dimitar Marinov, owner of Box of Goodness, has applied to Shropshire Council's planning department for permission to build a timber cabin in the grounds of the hospital.

The businessman already has a stall inside the hospital from which he sells fresh produce to staff and patients. Now he wants to branch out in to a permanent base where he would be able to offer fruit and veg, smoothies and juices, freshly made salad boxes and sandwiches.

He also plans to stock fresh milk, free range eggs, gluten, dairy or sugar free cakes and breads along with yoghurts, dried fruit and nuts. In a letter to the council, Mr Marinov said: "We feel we are the perfect ready-made business to start this venture."

Health chiefs back Stoptober campaign

PEOPLE are being challenged to stop smoking as part of the annual Stoptober campaign. Telford and Wrekin CCG has backed the campaign, which runs throughout October. They said giving up offers health benefits and protects family members from second hand smoke.

NHS bosses 'have moral responsibility' to provide enough doctors to stop A&E closure

Report by Dominic Robertson

to be ready to be put in place within three months.

But delivering a report on the proposal, the trust's chief operating officer Debbie Kadum said that currently it could not be introduced within the three-month time frame.

She said: "At this point we would not be able to implement this option within the three-month time frame the board has set."

The matter is further complicated by the fact that temporary consultant staff used by SaTH only have to give one week's notice before leaving.

Mr Wright said other NHS organisations have a duty to help provide the resources needed to care for the people of Shropshire. He confirmed that he was calling for more junior or middle grade doctors to be placed with the trust.

It comes after SaTH received fewer junior doctors than expected in the most recent allocation.

Mr Wright said: "I think it is really important we remember that the best solution is to keep both departments open."

"It is in the gift of the system, of health education England and our family partners in the NHS to really support us to get the people we need."

"The answer we need to be shouting loudly about is for everyone outside the county to recognise their moral responsibility to the people in it."

"This is really complicated stuff and that's why we have got a three-and-a-half-year process called Future Fit."

"These sorts of terrible considerations will be removed if other parties support this trust as they need to."

Dr David Lee, a non-executive board director, said that it was a source of frustration that junior doctors who praise their experience working in the county do not then take up the opportunity to continue their career with the trust.

Orthopaedic chiefs back calls for A5 improvements

Report by Sue Austin

BOSSES at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have backed calls for the A5 to be improved.

The Chronicle's sister paper the Shropshire Star has launched a campaign for the road to be upgraded to a dual carriageway.

Council leaders and thousands of readers have backed the campaign and bosses at the orthopaedic hospital at Gobowen have added their voices in support.

The hospital cared for more than 130,000 patients from across the region last year with the majority travelling by road and having to use the A5 either through Shropshire or on the north Wales border.

Hospital bosses have given their support to the Shropshire Star's Dual It campaign to see the road become a dual carriageway from Montford Bridge to the Welsh border.

The Star has launched a petition calling on roads minister, John Hayes, to include the A5 in the Government's Road Investment Strategy.

Mark Brandreth, chief executive of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, said: "We would certainly support this campaign. Dualling the A5 would have clear benefits for many of our patients, visitors and staff who use that road every day and face delays in getting to our site."

"Last year alone, we gave care to more than 116,000 outpatients and more than 15,000 in-patients."

"A large number of these patients use the A5 to get here, along with many of our 1,500 members of staff. They face regular frustration from hold-ups caused by a road not able to cope with the volume of traffic using it. Improvements in the road network will help us ensure more people are seen on time."

The campaign has this week also won the support of the Welsh Government transport minister Ken Skates.

Mr Skates, whose Clwyd South constituency includes a large part of the Shropshire border, says the A5 is a vital link for Welsh prosperity.

He said he was looking to arrange a meeting with the UK's transport secretary, Chris Grayling to discuss improvements.

People can sign the campaign's online petition at <https://www.change.org/p/roads-minister-john-hayes-make-the-a5-a-dual-carriageway-between-shrewsbury-and-chirk>

Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, has put hospitals in the UK on high alert following major flu outbreaks in Australia and New Zealand, which it is feared may be repeated in the UK.

Simon Wright, chief executive of SaTH, said he has asked for more flu vaccine and is urging vulnerable people to make sure they get their flu jab. He added: "We are worried about flu

Housekeeper Mandy receives Health Hero award



Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital housekeeper Mandy Gordon has been named a Health Hero by colleagues at the world renowned organisation

A POPULAR housekeeper has been named a hospital's latest Health Hero.

Mandy Gordon is the latest member of staff to win the award at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

She has been a familiar face at the hospital for more than 45 years and was nominated by the medicine and rheumatology admin department.

The team said she is dependable, friendly and always willing to help.

Mandy said: "I feel honoured and very proud to have been nominated by this wonderful team, it really means a lot to me. It's come as a real surprise but a very nice one."

"It's lovely to feel appreciated. I'd like to say a big thank you to the team for nominating me."

Chief executive Mark Brandreth announced the winner at the board of directors monthly meeting.

He said: "Mandy is a lovely lady who is popular with staff and patients alike. She always goes that extra mile to help out absolutely anybody, and I have never seen her without a huge smile upon her face."

"She is part of a team of domestics who do a simply fantastic job - and you don't have to just take my word for that, as our wards were rated among the very cleanest in the NHS in the most recent Adult Inpatient Survey."

"I was absolutely delighted to be able to present this award to Mandy."

More hospital flu vaccines are on the way for winter

SHROPSHIRE health officials have ordered more flu vaccinations to get them through the winter period.

Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, has put hospitals in the UK on high alert following major flu outbreaks in Australia and New Zealand, which it is feared may be repeated in the UK.

Simon Wright, chief executive of SaTH, said he has asked for more flu vaccine and is urging vulnerable people to make sure they get their flu jab. He added: "We are worried about flu

this year and we have asked for more vaccines - we have got that coming.

"We are looking to vaccinate 75 per cent of our front line staff."

"We also need to make sure our more vulnerable members of our population are getting a flu jab. So anyone who is a certain age or has certain conditions - go to your GP and ask advice about the flu jab. That would certainly help us."

GP surgeries will offer free flu jabs to many millions of children and adults this year as

part of its annual efforts to minimise the virus's impact.

NHS chief Simon Stevens said: "The signs from Australia and New Zealand, who are just coming out of winter, are that it has been a heavy flu season and many of the hospitals have struggled."

Health officials say flu vaccine is the best protection against the virus that can cause unpleasant illness in children and severe illness and death among at-risk groups.

At risk groups include older people, preg-

nant women and those with an underlying medical condition.

The best time to have a flu vaccine is in the autumn, from the start of October to early November.

The injected flu vaccine is offered free on the NHS annually to; adults over the age of 18 at risk of flu, including everyone aged 65 and over, pregnant women and children aged six months to two years at risk of flu.

Find out more about getting the vaccination at www.nhs.uk/flujab

Top tips on running a good home

17
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, October 19, 2017

Commercial feature

A COMMON ambition for many people is to one day own their own home.

The opportunity to have a place which you can call your own is something millions of people in the UK already have taken while it is a long held dream for many others.

Many people want their own home because they feel they want as much security as possible for the future.

Others want their own home because they want to be able to make long term changes and improvements to their own property.

After all buying your own furniture and changing your home to suit your tastes is something many people enjoy doing.

Others want their own home because they are tired of paying rent and having nothing to show for the money they have spent.

And many other people want to own their own home so they have something they can pass on to their children or grandchildren.

Of course, having your own home and, just as importantly, being able to continue to pay for it, all comes down to money.

Whether you are looking to buy your first home, move to a new home or are simply looking for the best mortgage deal when the time comes around again to renew your terms, there is always plenty of top tips to consider.

One straight forward tip is to think about always saving hard.

Work out how much spare cash you've got left over each month and consider setting up payments to go straight from your current account into a savings account, to avoid the temptation to spend the cash.

You can also always look at ways to boost your savings.

First-time buyers can turbo-boost their savings with, for example, a Help to Buy Isa or a Lifetime Isa, which come with bonuses.

Generally speaking, the bigger the deposit



Having our own home is a long held ambition for many of us

you have to put down, the more choice of mortgage deals you'll have, which could really help when it comes to making repayments.

Whether you are buying your first home or looking for a good deal on a mortgage it is always important to show you're responsible.

Building up a good credit history and showing you're responsible with money will be important when it comes to taking out a mortgage deal, so if you're not diligent already when it comes to paying back debt, such as credit cards, make sure you change your ways now.

You should also always factor in all the costs.

You may have thought about the deposit, but what about all the other costs, such as removal firms, estate agent and surveyor fees, conveyancing costs and taxes?

Recent research suggests home buyers underestimate their moving costs by nearly £2,000 typically. On top of this, there's also the cost of furniture to kit out your new home.

It is worth considering putting some spare cash aside.

Rather than spending every last penny, try to keep some money aside to start a "rainy day" fund. This will help if you suddenly have a big

bill to pay – such as if the boiler breaks down – rather than having to resort to putting the cost on credit.

And always choose your mortgage wisely.

Navigating the mortgage maze can seem quite daunting if you've never done it before – but the good news is, there are still plenty of low rate deals available. When choosing a mortgage, it's important to bear in mind the overall cost of the deal, not just the interest rate.

Make the most of property websites to get an idea of what prices are like in your desired area, to give you an idea of what you are looking



It is always worth considering having a rainy day fund

for is realistic on your budget. You may also want to target nearby up-and-coming areas, where there could be more wriggle room for the property you're buying to increase its value over the coming years. This could help to boost your equity position when you're ready to take your second step on the property ladder. And be prepared to compromise. Whether it's the location or the size of the property, a willingness to compromise could make all the difference when it comes to buying your first home. Even if your first home isn't your dream home, at least it could be a step towards it.

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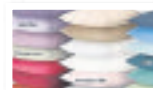
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18 Heritage move could bring a funding boost

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, October 19, 2017

UP to £100,000 could be spent to improve town centre buildings in Oswestry if a bid to become a Heritage Action Zone is successful.

Oswestry Town Council is waiting for a response to its bid to Historic England to be named a Heritage Action Zone.

Winning the status could inject new life into some of Oswestry's town centre buildings.

Members of the town council have campaigned in the past for owners of empty shops, particularly in Cross Street, to improve their buildings and market them for sale or rent.

At a meeting of the town council's finance and general purposes committee on Monday, councillors received an update on the proposal.

An update from Dr Andrew Wiggley, Natural and Historic Environment Manager of Shropshire Council, confirmed the bid had been discussed and well received by an Historic England panel.

The town council has already pledged £25,000 to the project, with match funding from the bid potentially making a total of £100,000 available if it is successful.

Councillors were anticipating a result of the bid by the middle of October, but the process is currently ongoing, councillors were told.

Store is set to close its doors for last time

A STORE at Moreton Park Wyevale Garden Centre at Gledrid near Oswestry is to close.

Everyday healthcare provider Simply-health has announced that it is to close its store based retail proposition, including The Unlimited Company store at Moreton Park. Ten stores will close immediately, including seven that are branded The Unlimited Company as well as three that operate under the Independent Living and Collins Care brands.

Five other stores that fall under the Care and Mobility banner will remain open while a possible sale of this part of the business is considered.

A total of 85 employees will be affected.

Romana Abdin, chief executive of Simply-health, said: "This is not the outcome we wanted when we created The Unlimited Company proposition. It was a very difficult decision to make, not just taking into account the thousands of customers that we have helped but because our own people will be affected. However, we remain committed to ensuring that people who need help with mobility or caring get the best advice and products possible. As someone with a disability myself I know there is a need for better support networks for people."

Airlifted cyclist was badly injured

A CYCLIST was airlifted to hospital following an accident at a popular beauty spot.

The man was riding along a country road near Lake Vyrnwy when he came off his bike on Thursday last week.

A spokesman for Dyfed Powys Police said: "Police are appealing for witnesses to a road traffic collision which occurred at approximately 12.30pm on October 12 on an unclassified road between Llanwddyn and Llwydiarth.

"A cyclist, travelling on the road, came off his bike and sustained what is believed to be serious injuries. He was taken to hospital by air ambulance. He remains in a serious but stable condition."

Popular fun day is another success

THIS year's Churchstoke Fun Day, hosted by The Midcounties Co-operative, raised £20,000 for local charities from over 6,000 people descending on to the park for a day jam-packed with activities.

Held at Churchstoke Country Park, visitors enjoyed live performances and a host of entertainment.

No reprieve for Mid Wales constituency as commission puts forward shake-up plans

Report by Mark Andrews

MONTGOMERYSHIRE will be split into three parliamentary constituencies under controversial boundary proposals.

The proposals are little different from the ones put forward in January.

Under the revised proposals, the town of Montgomery will become part of a new super-constituency of Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery, covering more than 1,150 square miles – making it one of the two largest constituencies in Wales.

The north of the existing constituency, which includes Welshpool, would come under a new Clwyd South and North Montgomeryshire constituency.

The main difference between the draft proposals put forward in January is that Machy-

nlleth would now come under Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, who has held the seat since 2010, said he was very disappointed with the updated proposals.

"If I'm honest, I think the changes at the last election means they are probably not going through, but if they do go through, I won't be standing again," he said.

Steve Halsall, secretary to the Boundary Commission for Wales, said as well as meeting the need to reduce the number of constituencies, the review had also looked at issues specific to Wales.

The proposals will now go forward for a third and final consultation.

Mr Halsall said: "It has also taken into account other relevant factors and has sought to identify the solutions most suitable to local needs within Wales. I would emphasise that these are not the final set of proposals so I urge the Welsh public to take this opportunity to have their say during this consultation period."

He said the commission had looked at a number of options.

"Some potential solutions considered proved not to be viable because they cannot be accommodated within the statutory requirement as to the size of the electorate or because of their knock-on effect on other constituencies," said Mr Halsall.

Mr Halsall added: "Over the next eight weeks people may visit our consultation portal, write in or email us to let us know what they think of the commission's proposals."

"Whether they accept or object, we are keen to hear people's views."

"Where they object – particularly where they can supply counter-proposals – the commission will give full consideration and may amend its proposals accordingly."

The initial consultation period runs until December 11.

Representations can be sent to the Boundary Commission for Wales, Hastings House, Fitzalan Court, Cardiff CF24 0BL, fax them to 029 2046 4820, or email them to bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Report by Mark Andrews

THE latest plans to shake up the parliamentary boundaries in Shropshire have been announced – and the public will be given their say for the third and final time.

People have until December to have their say on the planned changes to the areas covered by Shropshire's five MPs.

The Boundary Commission for England will then publish its final proposals to go before Parliament by September next year.

The latest proposals include major changes to the parliamentary constituencies for Telford, The Wrekin and Ludlow.

The North Shropshire seat, held by Owen Paterson since 1997, will not change while Daniel Kawczynski's Shrewsbury and Atcham will see only minor changes – although Atcham will be dropped from the name.

The commissioners have drawn up their latest plans after reviewing comments made to earlier proposals put forward in January.

People living in the areas affected have until December 11 to comment on the changes.

The changes are being made following the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 which called for a reduction in the number of MPs from 650 to 600.

After an initial consultation drawn up in autumn last year, the commission put forward proposed new boundary changes in January.

The public was then invited to comment on the changes, which resulted in the proposals put forward today.

Most of the comments related to the changes surrounding the Telford seat, held by Conservative Lucy Allan, and The Wrekin constituency held by fellow Tory Mark Pritchard.

The commissioners' report said there had been significant support for plans to enlarge the existing Telford seat, and create a new constituency covering Bridgnorth, Wellington and The Wrekin.

They did, however, agree to drop "Wellington" from the name following objections on the grounds that the town had long been associated with The Wrekin, and that to mention it by name was superfluous.

The new constituency will instead be called Bridgnorth and The Wrekin.

The villages of Chirbury and Worthen will move into the Shrewsbury seat under the changes, despite calls from the Liberal Democrats for them to be included in Ludlow and Leominster.

Thousands attend festival for tasty treats



Llangollen Food Festival was attended by thousands of people keen to enjoy the best local produce the area provides

THOUSANDS of people flocked to a food festival near Oswestry over the weekend, as the event marked its 20th anniversary.

More than 8,000 people attended Llangollen Food Festival on Saturday and Sunday, with 130 different stands available for visitors.

Organising committee member Pip Gale said they were thrilled with the attendance.

He said: "Visitors numbers are once again high and people are appreciating that the festival is bigger and better than ever."

"This year, by way of celebrating our 20th anniversary, we've added about 20 per cent more stands making a total of 130."

"They are both outside in front of the Pavil-

ion and inside, with a performance area just off the main hall and, for the first time, upstairs too. We've also tried to present a much more varied mix of stands and activities, such as giving people the chance to try bread making and take part in wine tastings. As we mark our two decades we're also celebrating being named as one of the Top 10 food festivals in the UK by the Independent and Daily Telegraph newspapers."

It's estimated that the two-day festival pumped nearly £400,000 into the local economy, making a total of £8 million since it started. Crowd-pullers this year were cooking displays from top chefs Bryan Webb from the

Michelin-starred Tyddyn Llan, former captain of the Wales Culinary team Graham Tinsley and the ever-popular Dai Chef who was there with his son, Daniel, the youngest head sommelier in the UK.

Rhian Owen from the Siwgr a Sbeis bakery – translated as Sugar and Spice in English – in Llanrwst has taken a stall at the festival to show off her hand-made cakes and confectionery every year since 1997, and said she just had to be there to mark its 20th birthday.

She said: "The first one was quite a small affair and all the exhibitors were in just one area of the Pavilion but I've seen it go from strength to strength since then."

Cash pledge on CCTV is made after assaults in town

A POLICE and crime commissioner has pledged money for CCTV in a town where four people were assaulted in just one weekend.

One of the victims, teenager Danny Foulkes, was left with head injuries during a weekend in which five youths were arrested following three separate assaults in the town of Newtown near Welshpool.

The events of the first weekend in October prompted Mr Foulkes' father Duncan to start a campaign to get decommissioned CCTV cameras in the town switched back on, and for

more police officers to be put on the streets to cut crime.

A petition has gathered more than 2,800 signatures.

Mr Foulkes said: "Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn has confirmed that a new, high-definition CCTV system for Newtown is included in the £2 million that is to be invested in 14 towns."

"I have requested details of the costs of the proposed project and the likely contribution that the town will have to make."

"This is very positive news and Mr Llywelyn has pledged to make Newtown a high priority in view of the public concern about violence and drug crime in the town."

"He has also offered to attend a meeting of the core group that is being formed to co-ordinate the campaign, together with chief inspector Matt Scrase from Dyfed Powys Police, to discuss issues of concern in the town, including police manpower and resources."

"The police, together with members of the public of all ages and the media, have been

totally supportive of our campaign. We are in effect pushing at an open door and we need everyone in the town to keep up the momentum."

"Just a week after our son Danny and three other people were attacked, we are united in making progress to improve public safety in Newtown."

"Our pressure will be relentless until our goals are achieved."

"Thank you to everyone who has supported the campaign."

Highly desirable family property overlooks lake

A highly desirable and attractive four-bedroomed detached family home, Y Dafarn, Moelfre has outstanding countryside views and overlooks Moelfre Lake.

Sitting within three acres of fields and gardens, it is for sale through Town & Country at £625,000 with no chain. Its accommodation briefly comprises an elegant hallway/reception room, a living room, a shower room, a kitchen/breakfast room, a laundry, an orangery, a study, a master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside there are beautiful gardens leading to the lake, tandem and double garages, ample off-road parking, outbuildings and a sun terrace.

In more detail the property has an elegant hallway/reception room with a stone fireplace (not working), part-panelled walls, a beam and stairs leading to the landing. The sitting room has a beamed ceiling, a brick fireplace with an oil fired stove and alcove cupboards. The shower room is fantastic, having a suite including a luxury ceiling mounted air body dryer. The kitchen/breakfast room is a beautiful heart of the home farm-style kitchen open plan to the living room. Stairs lead off to the first floor. There is access to a boarded attic above the kitchen with a pull down ladder. There is also a pantry with a ceramic sink, cold slabs, a beamed ceiling and old pub stone steps. The living room has wooden flooring, underfloor heating and a storage room off. A fabulous space, the orangery/family room has lovely panoramic views over the lake and grounds. It has wooden flooring and underfloor heating so the room can be used all year around, open to the eaves with beams and French doors to the side, opening onto the living room. Sweeping oak stairs lead to a good sized first landing with a gallery balustrade and library book shelves.

The master bedroom has a built-in cupboard, Hammonds units and a secret door leading to the en-suite shower room. Bedroom two has fitted wardrobes. Off the second landing is bedroom three with a Velux, two beams and shelving. Bedroom four has two beams.

KEY FEATURES

Attractive detached home
Three acres of fields & gardens
Four bedrooms
Outstanding countryside views
Overlooking Moelfre Lake

MOELFRE £625,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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Four bedroom family home offers spacious living

GOBOWEN
£160,000

Town and Country in Oswestry is delighted to offer to the market, 12 Trinity Close, Gobowen, a superb property which is not what it seems.

Stop and look again because once inside this spacious four bedroom family home you will be captivated by every detail which has been carefully thought through and beautifully presented.

The property is on the market for £160,000. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, kitchen/dining area, cloakroom, first floor landing, master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, study, bathroom and second floor landing.

To the front of the property is a paved and slate area with parking for two cars. The rear garden is all enclosed by wooden fencing, with a paved patio entertainment area, pebbled surround, steps leading



to a raised garden area, wooden gate to the side of the property leading to the front of the property, outside lighting and an outside tap.

The living room has wood effect flooring, windows to the front, modern wall mounted electric fire, coved ceiling, radiator, telephone and TV point.

The kitchen area has a good range of base and wall fitted units.

The dining area has tiled flooring, a patio door to the rear garden and a radiator.

Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property and its convenient location.

Contact Town and Country in Oswestry on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

KYNASTON
£549,950

>>>>

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £549,950. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Charming home situated in desirable area on outskirts of town

OSWESTRY
£325,000

<<<

A charming three-bedroomed detached house in a desirable residential area on the outskirts of town, 32 Hampton Rise, Oswestry, is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000.

The ground floor includes large spacious rooms whilst the first floor includes a large family bathroom. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property stands on an excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens, a driveway and double garage. Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this home.

Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 595003.



Grade II home benefits from outstanding views of countryside

LLANFECHAIN
£695,000

>>>

Outstanding views are as valid a reason today for calling Llys Uchaf home, as they would have been when this property was first built in the 17th century.

Today its timber framed construction is celebrated with Grade II listing; the five bed property also includes a detached barn and some 12 acres of grounds. The village of Llanfechain is just over a mile away, while Welshpool and Oswestry are each 11 miles. Approaching the steading a wooded copse, stream and wildlife pond, set the scene, these are superseded by paddocks flanking the drive.

Internally Llys Uchaf wants for nothing; the fully equipped kitchen, family room is highlighted by sky lights adding extra light to the south and north facing windows.

The home has a guide price of £695,000.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Two bedroomed spacious bungalow enjoys great views

OSWESTRY
£279,995

A spacious two bedroom bungalow with stunning views overlooking the town towards the Shropshire Plain, 22 Hampton Close, Oswestry, is convenient for the town's shopping centre.

The property is on the market through JJ Dell and Co with a guide price of £279,995.

The home occupies a quiet position on Hampton Close, a popular residential area within walking distance of the town's shopping centre.

The property is an individually designed spacious detached bungalow constructed traditionally of brick under a tiled roof.

The well appointed accommodation has the benefit of upvc double glazing and gas fired heating.

The accommodation comprises a reception hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, inner hall, two bedrooms, a bathroom and conservatory.



The property is a detached bungalow occupying a corner plot at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Access is over a wide tarmac driveway which provides ample car parking and turning area leading to a detached garage with electric up and over front door.

The attractive front garden has a feature pond, flower and herbaceous borders.

The large corner garden plot is well stocked with a selection of fruit trees, shrubs and flower and herbaceous borders and good sized rear paved patio area.

For more details about the property contact JJ Dell and Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Former pub has been upgraded to a spacious family home

MELVERLEY
£480,000

<<<

In a pleasant location, Tontine Inn in Church Lane, Melverley, Oswestry is a former public house that has now been upgraded to become a spacious family home or run as a bed and breakfast.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £480,000. Having oil-fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it features a large sun room, an open plan living/dining room with an impressive fireplace and seven first floor bedrooms all having en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities. The grounds include useful detached stores/workshop or a garage. Access is readily available to the towns of Shrewsbury and Welshpool and the market town of Oswestry. Excellent local facilities include Kinnerley Primary School, Melverley Village Hall and the historic St Peter's Church.

For further information contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Fresh plans are lodged for housing

A DEVELOPER has launched a second attempt to build houses next to a primary school – but admits it will still cause controversy in the community.

Dennis Edwards has applied to Shropshire Council to build two homes on a small patch of land between Meadows Primary School and the Whole Life Christian Centre in Cabin Lane, Oswestry.

His application for three houses was rejected earlier this year after hundreds of residents signed a petition for it to remain as open space.

A statement from the agent, Chartland Developments, said: “We anticipate that the application will still attract significant local objection. Realistically the land is not going to be handed over by the owner as some sort of community garden or open space. It is waste ground in a built up area and should be developed.”

Planning officers rejected the first application and said the development would be “cramped and contrived”.

The fresh plans are for a pair of semi-detached houses with private gardens and two car parking spaces each.

The statement added: “The previously submitted scheme was criticised for the small size of the houses and their appearance. The houses have therefore been slightly increased in size although still within the financial reach of many. More effort has been made in the design of the houses to give a more attractive appearance.”

Shropshire Council is expected to make a decision by the end of November.

Authority to face further funds pressure

POWYS County Council will continue to face financial pressures after its budget settlement from the Welsh Government was cut by one per cent.

For the current year the council received more than £174 million and next year it will receive £172.5m.

That money will be topped up by £145,000, however it will still leave the authority £1.7 million worse off.

It means the settlement is the joint worst across all local authorities in Wales. Councillor Aled Davies, deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, said the settlement will increase the challenge of attempting to deliver sustainable services in the future. He said: “The announcement by the Welsh Government has done nothing to reduce our current financial pressures. The reduction in funding that Powys will receive, combined with increasing demands on our services, will increase the challenge to deliver sustainable services into the future. We have already identified savings of £8.3m that will have to be made in the next financial year but we will need to reconsider our plans now that we have received the provisional settlement.”

Arts society to meet up again

SPEAKER at the October meeting of The Arts Society, Mid Wales & Borders (Formerly NADFAS) is Roger Mitchell.

The topic is On Progress – Queen Elizabeth and King James.

The meeting takes place on Thursday next week at 2.30pm. The venue is The Powis Suite, Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool.

Non-members are very welcome to attend, though a donation of £6 towards costs is requested.

For information e-mail avril@avril-hart.com

Guild to have meeting

OSWESTRY and District Townswomen Guild is holding its meeting on Thursday next week at 2pm at the Memorial Hall.

Speaker Paula Howells will talk about a town nursery school in Gambia.

Pretty Muddy organisers say thanks so much



Hundreds of women took part in the muddy event at Chirk Castle grounds

ORGANISERS of a colourful fundraising event have given heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part.

Chirk Castle became a sea of pink as over 1,000 women joined the fight against cancer by taking part in Cancer Research UK's Race for Life. Over 1,300 mums, daughters, sisters and friends showed their incredible commitment to the cause as they came together to help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

Now organisers of the Pretty Muddy event are sending a heartfelt message of thanks to everyone who took part and all their supporters. And they're asking them to make every step count by paying in their sponsorship money as soon as possible so that it can be used to fund life-saving research.

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is an inspiring women-only series of 5k, 10k, Pretty Muddy, Marathon and



There were plenty of obstacles for the women to get around

Hiking events which raises millions of pounds every year to find new ways to tackle cancer.

Sarah Hunter, Cancer Research UK's north west events manager, said: “Life-saving research is being funded right now thanks to the women of Chirk running, jogging or walking at Race for Life.”

“Our participants play a crucial role in helping to turn discoveries made in the lab into better treatments for patients in Chirk and across

the UK and we'd like to thank everyone who took part in the event.

“The atmosphere on the day was electric – full of emotion, courage, tears and laughter – as thousands of like-minded ladies came together to unite in the fight against cancer. Now we're asking everyone who took part, and all the friends, family and colleagues who pledged to sponsor them, to return the money they've raised as soon as possible.”

Artistic youngsters learn from one of the masters



David Davies presents the cheque to Vanessa Baldry



Children from Gobowen Primary School pick up some artistic hints during the workshop

Report by Aimee Jones

YOUNG artists have been learning from one of the masters.

Reproductions of the latter work of Henri Matisse, created under his instruction, are on display in the Qube Gallery in Oswestry in a partnership with the Hayward Gallery on London's Southbank.

Drawing with scissors is a collection of prints of his famous cut-outs created when he was confined to bed or a wheelchair.

Qube also commissioned MediaActive, a creative arts company from Wem to run workshops for local children.

The touring exhibition is open to the public through October at Qube and the public can also try their hand at drawing with scissors.

Oswestry Rotary Club president Dave Davies visited the gallery to present a cheque from the recent Oswestry to Combs la Ville sponsored cycle challenge and to see the work of the Mary Hignett Bequest Fund in action.

Qube's share from the ride, plus a top-up from Oswestry Rotary Club fundraising, amounted to £150 which will contribute to the costs of running services. “We are very grateful for all help in providing these services particularly when they have been raised by such a tremendous challenge,” said Vanessa Baldry, the Qube's arts development officer.

Mr Davies presented the cheque and took the opportunity to drop in on Gobowen Primary School pupils' workshop being run by MediaActive. Funding from the Mary Hignett Bequest Fund, administered by the rotary club, helped stage the workshops.



The beauty of art was explored at the workshops



Sreenand Sunil and Poppie Chapman from Gobowen School enjoy the art lesson



Youngsters from Gobowen Primary School learn more about the work of Matisse



Should scrums and tackling be banned in school rugby?

Rugby coach tackling the scientists head on

The latest 'expert' advice is that tackling and scrums should be banned from school rugby. But those teaching the game disagree. BY MARK ANDREWS.

In Tom Brown's School Days, the protagonist observed: "It's very odd how almost all English boys love danger; you can get ten to join a game, or climb a tree, or swim a stream, when there's a chance of breaking their limbs or getting drowned."

It is fair to say Tom's adventures with Scud, George and Flashman would have been very different had their teachers heeded the latest advice from experts at Newcastle University.

Writing for the British Medical Journal, Prof Allyson Pollock and Graham Kirkwood have called for scrums and tackles to be banned from school playing fields, arguing that most injuries in youth rugby are caused by collisions during the game.

Calling for the Government to step in, Pollock and Kirkwood say ministers should "put the interests of the child before those of corporate professional rugby unions".

Dominic Bradburn, director of sport at Oswestry School, is unconvinced.

"You can't take tackling out of the game, it would ruin it," says Mr Bradburn, who has played the sport for Shrewsbury RFC.

Phil Jefferies, who coaches youngsters at Bridgnorth Rugby Club, says that taking tack-

ling out of the junior game could actually make it more dangerous when children get older. "I think there's always merit in re-looking at sport and understanding the dangers involved," he says.

"My personal view is that what we need to do is to teach kids the correct techniques to scrummage and tackle, and give them the experience of this at a slower rate when they are small.

"If you take the tackling and scrummaging out of the game at school level, by the time they reach the age of 18 they will have no experience of it, and I think you will get a lot more injuries than you do now."

Mr Jefferies, who is 42, first started playing the game when he was eight years old. He says that in 34 years he has suffered from concussion twice, despite playing the position of flanker where his head is particularly vulnerable.

"I would imagine the risk of leg breaks in football is far greater," he says, although he does add that head injuries can be much more serious.

He points out that much has changed in the way rugby is taught to youngsters in recent years.

"You now have age range rugby, where different rules are gradually brought in for different age groups," he says. "That's only come in over the last four years."

Pollock, a public health doctor who has been researching rugby injuries for more than 10 years, and Kirkwood, a former NHS nurse, say that removing collisions from school rugby would "reduce and mitigate the risk of injury" in pupils. They warn that a history of concussion could "lower a person's life chances" across a number of measures including educational achievement and life expectancy. They also say that head injuries could increase the risk of dementia.

Mr Bradburn agrees more could be done to make junior rugby safer, but says banning tackles is not the way to go about it. He says a

better idea would be to classify youngsters by their weight rather than age, as is done in New Zealand. At the moment we have the situation of under-12s rugby, where you might have a boy who has gone through puberty, and one who hasn't," he says. "You get a boy weighing 60kg going up against one who is 20kg. At that stage it is more about maturation and puberty than it is simply about age."

Citing previous research into sports injuries in youngsters, Pollock and Kirkwood say that rugby, along with ice hockey and American football, have the highest concussion rates. They say rule changes can make a difference, highlighting the Canadian ban on deliberate contact in ice hockey for under 13s. But Mr Bradburn, who has been teaching rugby for 14 years, says the game is no different from any other contact sport. He says the important thing is to ensure that it is taught properly, and that staff are trained in dealing with any knocks that might be picked up.

He is not the only one who is sceptical. In 2016, the nation's most senior medics rejected a call for a ban on tackling in youth rugby. Prof Tara Spire-Jones, of the University of Edinburgh, says while people should be careful playing sports where there is a risk of head injury, the scientific evidence isn't strong enough to justify drastic rule changes.

"The data on specifically whether playing rugby or other contact sports in school increases your risk of dementia are not as robust yet due to a lack of large prospective studies," she says. There are also many who argue that the health benefits of getting youngsters involved with sport outweigh any risks from concussion.

Mr Jefferies says that taking tackling out of the junior game would deny youngsters the opportunity to get some much-needed exercise.

"We have got 300 kids in our junior teams, and when you have boys that age there is a lot of testosterone," he says. "From the age of nine, when they are told they can tackle, all they want to do is tackle. It just smacks of the nanny state."

"I would imagine the risk of leg breaks in football is far greater"

Why Beefy blamed me for the weather



Former chaplain to the England cricket team Andrew Wingfield Digby with the Rev Richard Hill at St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

IT was March 1992, and Andrew Wingfield Digby was waiting in the changing rooms after rain had interrupted what had looked like a certain England victory in the cricket World Cup.

Andrew was chaplain to the England team that had just bowled Pakistan out for 74, and at 21 for 1, Graham Gooch's men looked nailed-on for victory.

But Ian Botham was not happy about the precipitation.

"Ian Botham comes up to me and says 'you're useless, you are', and I said 'what have I done?', recalls Andrew. He said 'it's raining, and it's your fault. The only people laughing are the Pakistani captain and his team. It's not surprising there's a worldwide movement in favour of the Islamic



Andrew Wingfield Digby in Ludlow

faith."

Andrew, who was guest speaker at a lunch in St Laurence's Church in Church Stretton, had known Beefy since his university days, but even he was a bit surprised to be blamed for the weather.

"If you work with the England cricket team, it's all about winning," he says.

"They thought that the point of having a chaplain – or spiritual adviser as they called me – was that it would help them win."

Andrew first encountered Botham while playing for Oxford University in the early 1970s. "We didn't know much about winning, but if we got a draw it felt like we had won. Ian Botham was playing for Somerset, and I would sometimes go up against him."

Andrew was appointed chaplain in 1991 by the then England cricket supremo Ted Dexter. It was hardly a vintage time for English cricket – the disastrous 1988 Test series against the West Indies, when England got through four different captains, was still fresh in the mind, and the Scottish cricketers had just declared their independ-

Report by Mark Andrews

ence from England and Wales. The side had stabilised slightly since the dark days of the 1980s, but it was still in a state of flux. After another humiliation in the 1990-91 Ashes series, Dexter noticed that Australia had a chaplain, and thought it was worth a try.

While it was not a time when England excelled on the field, it was a time that was dominated by big personalities. The age of television made the likes of Botham, Gooch, Mike Gatting and David Gower into household names, but Andrew saw these people in a very different light from the way they appeared in the media. He says he does not recall any real egos in the dressing room.

"They were all great lads," he says. "Some people seem to be in awe of celebrities, but when you meet people they are just the same as everybody else."

"They were a great bunch of lads. Mike Gatting was a larger-than-life personality, and Ian Botham had a way of putting things; his precise words which I could not always use when addressing Christian audiences. There was a lot of laddish banter, but I always used to know when it was just the right time to extricate myself from that."

Prowess

He remembers going to see captain Gooch just after being appointed chaplain, and Botham being on the massage table. "He said 'don't worry Wingers, me and Lamby will sing in the choir'," says Andrew. "And that broke the ice. I think the fact that I had played a bit made them a little bit less suspicious than they would have been if I was just a regular vicar."

Andrew, who was also a chaplain at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, says he feels a great deal of sympathy for England vice-captain Ben Stokes, who was arrested earlier this week following an alleged incident at a Bristol nightclub. "He is just an ordinary bloke going out on the lash, but when you're in the public eye it is very easy to be targeted."

Indeed, while playing for Dorset, Andrew remembers his team sometimes attracting the interest of the tabloids.

"We appeared on page three of The Sun three times," he says, "which is not something you expect for Dorset Cricket Club."

One of these occasions followed a game against Shropshire, played at Wellington, which ended in a minor brawl.

Andrew remained England chaplain until 2000, and there were plenty of laughs along the way. One moment in particular brings a smile. "Being introduced to the British ambassador by Phil Tufnell as his 'personal spiritual adviser'," he recalls. "I'm not sure I did a terribly good job there."



You have to be tough to play rugby



Tullis Matson with champion show jumper Big Star

Seeds of success for rare breeds' survival

Thom Kennedy takes a look at a remarkable Shropshire firm that is working to preserve the future of endangered animals

It's known as the home of world-beating horses – but now a stallion business in Shropshire is working to preserve the future of some of the world's rarest animals.

Stallion AI Services near Whitchurch has embarked on a project alongside Chester Zoo and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust to explore how animals' genetic line can be continued after they die.

Perhaps best-known as the home of triumphant Olympian show jumping stallion Big Star, the dairy farm-turned equine specialist is now looking at ways its techniques can help in the long-term survival of endangered species.

The technique sees the recently-dead animals' reproductive organs frozen and sent to north Shropshire, where the team attempts to remove their seed to freeze and preserve.

"It started when an animal died and they wanted us to salvage its genetic line," said boss Tullis

Matson. "We did it with stallions, and somebody heard about that. We then had a go with a bull, and that was successful and saw the first calf to be born using that method.

"We have had various meetings, and recently had the first testicles to arrive with us from a capybara, to see if it would work, although they were too young unfortunately. They have a very old black rhino at Chester Zoo, and if anything should happen to it that would be something we might be able to help with. They seem to be very excited by this project.

"It's to do with gene pools. When they are too closely related that breeds its own issues around fertility, and that's one of the issues with the Suffolk punch breed of horses. It can have a snow-ball effect."

He added: "I went to a zoo-keepers' conference last year and that really highlighted how endangered some of the animals are that they are working on are.

"People see them as places where animals are kept in cages but many endangered animals would be extinct if it weren't for zoos.

"One thing they would like to do is to cryo-preserve some species' genetics in the wild – professors might be tracking something like a white snow leopard trying to get samples from it to freeze. If they can get the parts to us when an animal dies we can learn how to preserve those animals by natural means."

Stallion AI emerged from the former 360-acre dairy and pig farm at Twemlows Hall in 2000. Since then it has collected samples from 1,000 animals. The company recently invested £1.5 million to build new facilities including stables and a better laboratory to help it keep advancing – a move manager Kate Ashmore says is essential.

She said: "We are about to take on a PhD stu-

dent, which is a massive investment for us but at the end of that we will have some really solid research in that will help us improve techniques in our lab. The key to our business is the research, and pushing the boundaries. If we stood still people would overtake us but we are pushing for the next big thing."

The business is one of only two centres in the world eligible to export samples around the world, and one of only 15 with access to the EU. International trade is growing, accounting for £3.5 million of sales last year.

Boss Tullis Matson has also helped establish laboratories in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Egypt and Germany, and is now working to preserve ailing horse breeds such as the Suffolk Punch, of which only 300 breeding females remain.

Big Star, the "man of the moment" according to Mr Matson, is one of a number of animals which currently make their home at the farm.

Aptly named, the world's top show jumping horse won gold at the London then Rio Olympics with rider Nick Skelton, who called the animal the best horse he had ever ridden.

Now he is cared for by the team in Shropshire, who have helped him sire competition-winning foals. The valuable stallion is on camera 24 hours a day for his owner to watch.

But he is not the only horse in Stallion AI's stable to receive the red-carpet treatment. Arko, another of Skelton's prizewinners, also beds down at Stallion AI, as does another Olympian, Jaguar Mail, who represented Sweden in China in 2008.

"We have been very lucky, we have had a lot of different stallions through here from different disciplines," Mr Matson added.

"We have exported all over the world – shire horses, show jumpers, dressage, eventers."

"We are opening up to new countries."

"It started when an animal died and they wanted us to salvage its genetic line"



Lucy Morgan at the liquid nitrogen storage

Shropshire's getting its just desserts



Queues outside the Little Dessert Shop in Wolverhampton

LIFE is sweet for dessert shops – a trend that is about to sweep across Shropshire.

Already a phenomenon in the urban West Midlands, with hour-long queues not uncommon, the specialist pudding restaurants are starting to crop up here too.

Asin Tahraf snatches a brief moment to talk in his dessert cafe, which is packed to the rafters.

"I guess people just have a sweet tooth," he says.

"People want us to open earlier, every time we open at 12 there's always a queue of people waiting to get in.

"It is just something that is becoming more and more popular."

While the traditional high street retailers might be in the doldrums, and pubs continue to close at an alarming rate, it seems



Area manager Roman Aslamzada (left)

the one thing we haven't lost our taste for is sweet treats.

Asin, 20, is the manager of Sweet in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, the latest branch of a dessert chain which has seen rapid expansion since it was formed in Wall-sall just two years ago. It has since been followed by branches at nearby Aldridge, Stoke-on-Trent, and even one in Mile End, London. A branch in Stafford is due to open shortly.

"We have been a lot busier since we opened the one at Shrewsbury," he says. "It is in a really good location, and it gets really busy."

He is not alone. When the Little Dessert Company opened its first branch in Wolverhampton two years ago, crowds would regularly gather outside as people waited for tables to become available. Even now, it is not unknown for people to wait up to an hour to get a table at the 70-seat restaurant.

Like Sweet, the Little Dessert Shop specialises entirely in desserts, with a huge range of cakes, puddings, crepes and ice

Report by Mark Andrews

creams. At the moment, Little Dessert Shop founder Maz Ali is putting the final touches to his business's ninth branch, at Hazeldine Square in Telford's Central Square. The anticipation for the new branch is palpable. Initially the company tried to keep the proposed new branch secret, but when a member of staff put a card in a window to help the postman find the unit, social media went into meltdown with talk of the new branch.

Area manager Roman Aslamzada says: "A lot of our customers are travelling from Telford to Wolverhampton so there was demand there."

"We were getting emails every so often with customers demanding we do it. We were looking for a site for three or four months before we found this one."

"It has all been positive so far, but we were keeping things tight-lipped until it appeared online."

The Telford restaurant was originally due to open in April this year, but was delayed due to "unforeseen circumstances", leading to a second online frenzy of speculation about when, if at all, the chain would come to Telford. It has now opened.

"We are trying to replicate what we have got in Wolverhampton, and bring a bit of sweetness to Telford."

The chain already has a presence in Shropshire thanks to its restaurant in Shophatch Shrewsbury, which has already proved a large success during its first months.

Mr Ali has big plans for his business, with an ambitious target of 30 shops by the end of the year.

Like its rival Sweet, the Little Dessert Shop also considered opening a branch in London, but decided instead to concentrate on expansion closer to home.

However Mr Ali is convinced it is only a matter of time before his business has a national presence.

"I don't doubt that we'll create a nationwide presence through our planned future expansion," he says.

So why are people going crazy for puddings at a time when the high street appears to be in terminal decline, suffering from a lethal combination of parking charges, soaring rates, and internet competition?

Part of this may be down to the influence of television shows such as Great British Bake Off, which have revived interest in home-made puddings.

If people do not have the skill or the inclination to bake their own cakes, then calling in at a specialist pudding restaurant is the next best thing.

Signing of landmark treaty is remembered in style



Members of Cwmwd Ial, the living history re-enactment group, stage mock battle skirmishes

A COMMUNITY near Welshpool came together to mark a weekend of celebrating the 750th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of Montgomery in 1267.

Councillor Mike Mills described the celebrations as magnificent, as the weekend began in a makeshift English court. King Henry III was played by Councillor Mills, and the Welsh court led by Llewelyn, Prince of Wales (Hywel Lovgreen) met at Rhydwhyma Ford, Caer-

howell to re-enact the signing of the treaty. Otobuono, the Papal Legate, county councillor Stephen Hayes, who negotiated the settlement, witnessed the agreement.

In costume and armed with shields made especially for the event, pupils of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Newtown, Montgomery Church in Wales School and Abermule Community Primary School banged drums in support of their King and their Prince. Specially-invited guests

included Lord Lieutenant Dame Shan Legge-Bourke, Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire and Councillor Dai Davies, Powys County Council's chairman. Later that evening Montgomery's Georgian Town Hall was packed out for a banquet with more than 100 guests in period costume.

King Henry III and Llywelyn, Prince of Wales, played host to visitors and residents with an evening of medieval fare, music and

merriment. A host of other activities took place including medieval dishes being served at the Dragon Hotel, and more than 500 people visited the castle on Saturday to watch members of an re-enactment group demonstrate life, cooking, herbal lotions and potions and battle tactics from the 13th century. Among the most popular activities were the skirmishes where Norman knights were set upon by the Welsh forces and had to fight to the mock death.



The English and Welsh courts at the medieval banquet

Pupils take a step back in time to the days of Victoria



The youngsters ate as the Victorians would have done



There was a theatre show to enjoy



Children at Packwood Haugh enjoyed getting into the Victorian spirit

Report by Aimee Jones

THE world has changed since this school was founded in 1892 – but the current pupils stepped back in time to get a snapshot of life in Victorian times.

Packwood Haugh in Ruyton-XI-Towns near Oswestry is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, so the students arrived on a recent morning dressed in period costumes to take a step back in history.

Staff at the school threw a Victorian Day which included the singing of the national anthem during a traditional school assembly, playing Victorian sports and building bridges.

The highlight of the day for many was a hearty lunch of beef or vegetable stew which was eaten refectory-style at long tables.

Head of history at the prep-school, Nick Weston, said: "Our aim was to give the children a snapshot into life in Victorian times and what the world was like when Packwood first opened.

"Everyone had a great day, and happily, all avoided six of the best from the headmaster's cane."

There was also a Sherlock Holmes themed part of the day as 1892 was also the year Sir Arthur Conan Doyle first revealed his famous detective.

Staff at the school incorporated elements of investigation and deduction into the workshops.

There was a live game of Cluedo, code cracking, sessions investigating Victorian toys and using chemicals to solve mysteries.



Children were told to stand straight and learn manners



Children at the school got dressed up in Victorian style for the event



Charlie Harvery enjoys some artwork during the Victorian Day

Halloween treat to help cancer unit

ROCK music and Halloween will combine to raise funds for a cancer unit that is helping a popular youth worker.

Geoff Moore will be the VIP guest when bands take to the stage at the Hard Rock Halloween event near Oswestry on November 4 in a fundraiser for the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund.

Mr Moore, from Oswestry, has been a youth worker for 30 years, has received several awards for his work and his volunteering and currently manages youth services in Powys. He also cares for his partner, Karen, who has MS and is in a wheelchair. Musician Kev Williams, one of those organising the event, said Mr Moore is a cancer survivor and lifelong friend. He said: "He had open heart surgery in 2004 to remove a tumour from between his heart and lungs. He received the all-clear but last year the cancer returned and he had to have emergency surgery. After five months of intense chemotherapy, Geoff's tumour has stabilised but is currently inoperable." He said Mr Moore was undeterred and back at work and had returned to his love of martial arts.

Artists for the Hard Rock Halloween evening are local band Wasted Fate, Mullet from Telford, Abandon from Mansfield, Mistreated from Midlands and singer Kira Scott who will be doing acoustic sets in between band changeovers.

Tickets at £10, are available from Lita Williams on 07944933337 or Oswestry outlets, Music Makers, Rowanthorn, or Hartshorns.

Hundreds of ducks to race at aqueduct

HUNDREDS of rubber ducks will race across an historic aqueduct this weekend to shine a spotlight on a World Heritage Site.

The Canal & River Trust charity is hosting its first cross-border duck race over Chirk Aqueduct on Sunday.

The 70ft high structure, built by Thomas Telford more than 200 years ago, marks the boundary between England and Wales, and is part of the trust's Llangollen Canal 11-mile World Heritage Site.

Ani Sutton, C&RT development manager, said: "This will be a fabulous event to showcase Chirk Aqueduct and the wonderful Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site.

"Sometimes overshadowed by its more headline-grabbing neighbour, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, but Chirk is a stunning structure in its own right.

"It deserves to have a spotlight shone on it and what better way to get everyone out having some fun than to host a duck race."

Competitors don't need to register, just arrive at Chirk Basin on the day of the race at 10.30am and register their name against a duck number.

Man denies he committed fraud

A MAN from Gobowen near Oswestry has appeared in court charged with fraud by false representation.

Andrew Owen, 39, of Perry Road, Gobowen, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court to face the charge on Monday. The court was told he is alleged to have committed fraud by false representation, namely using a M&S credit card belonging to Maria Owen, between June 30, 2017, and September 1, 2017.

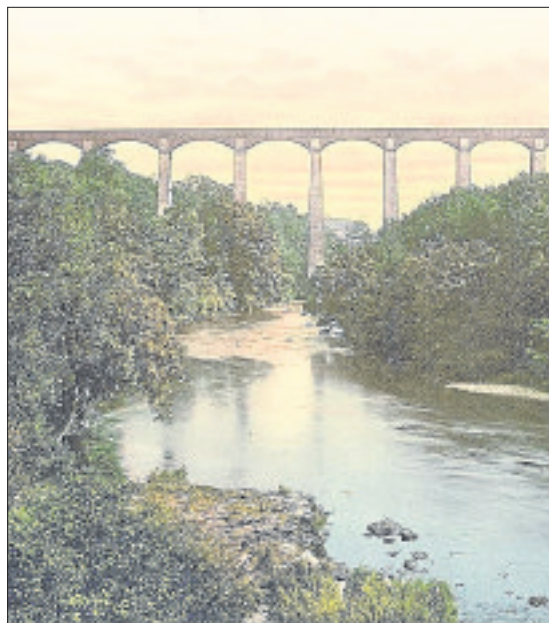
Owen denied the charge. He will face trial at court on December 4.

Autumn fair planned

VISCOUNT Bridgeman Court in Oswestry will be hosting an autumn fair and open day on October 28 at 2pm.

There will be a tombola, raffle and various stalls.

Happy holiday spots that stand the test of time



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct remains a popular tourist destination



Llandudno lighthouse was constructed in 1862



Llandudno was hailed the Queen of Welsh resorts

Postcards from past

Report by Sophie Madden

WITH its glorious beaches, rolling hills and stunning scenery, Wales is popular with holidaymakers from across the UK.

And as this stunning collection of Victorian photographs show, it was also a favourite with Victorian and Edwardian tourists.

The vintage colour postcards from the Victorian era show the landscape of Wales, including some of its many rivers, bridges and cathedrals, as seen by visitors more than 100 years ago.

Seaside piers and promenades remain much unchanged from those that visitors might enjoy today.

Picturesque

The snapshots show some of the country's most picturesque tourist spots, such as the canal walk in Llangollen, Bangor Cathedral and the Iron Pier in Llandudno.

Other images show the sun setting on a lake in Bala over 100 years ago, the lighthouse in Llandudno and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Llangollen.

The 18-arched stone and cast iron aqueduct, took 10 years to design and build and was completed in 1805.

It is now the oldest and longest navigable aqueduct in Great Britain and the highest in the world.

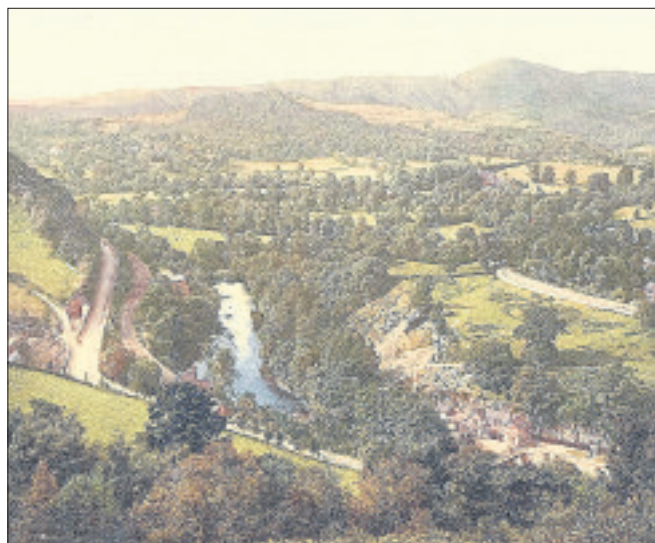
The aqueduct was to be a key part of the central section of the proposed Ellesmere Canal, an industrial waterway that would create a commercial link between the River Severn at Shrewsbury and the Port of Liverpool on the River Mersey.



The Marine Drive, a four-mile drive round the base of the Great Orme headland



Bala Lake, known as Llyn Tegid, the largest natural body of water in Wales



The river running through the lush landscape of Llangollen



The church of Llanycil sits beside Bala Lake



Holyhead and Holy Island were also popular with the Victorians and Edwardians

LET'S ALL GO CRAZY FOR TOM INSIDE

YOUR WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Llangollen Wharf is one of the major attractions in the North Wales market town of Llangollen and is now part of a World Heritage Site.

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Oh, Tom! We are still Crazy For You

He never once thought about packing it in, though his mates told him he ought to. During his six wilderness years, Tom Chambers worked variously as a barman, pizza delivery guy, HGV driver and more. He took whatever work he could get because nobody wanted to give the fledgling actor a job.

So he recorded a video of himself tap dancing, showing off skills that few possess. And he sent it to 1,000 people – yes, 1,000. Two of them responded.

"I was lucky, one of those responses led to a TV audition," he says.

The audition was for *Holby City* and that, in turn, led to an appearance on *Strictly Come Dancing*. For Tom, at least, the rest is history and he is now one of the biggest stars of the West End. Musical theatre adores the man who won the sixth series of *Strictly* with partner Camilla Dallerup.

"In this industry, you either have to have a screw loose or be slightly mad," he says. "Not giving up for that long and having that never-ending belief that you'll get there requires something a little different. Even now, I still can't quite believe what I'm doing."

"I tried for six years after drama school, I was a barman, pizza delivery, HGV driver . . . You name it. Then I did a tap dance and sent it out to 1,000 people and I got two responses. Everyone was telling me to quit. They were telling me to find another agent. At one point, I even signed up to be a fireman. But then the phone rang offering me a proper TV audition for six years. I took it and things have gone alright since that. But that's the thing, you're so lucky to get work in this industry. You only have to watch *X Factor* to realise what talents people have."

Tom is lining up with another *Strictly* winner, Caroline Flack, who is making her stage debut as Irene in the national tour of *Crazy For You*. Tom plays her love interest Bobby, and the show will be at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to October 28.

Best known to TV audiences for her star-turn on the popular BBC TV series *Strictly Come Dancing*, Flack won the 12th season of *Strictly* in 2014. She currently presents ITV's *Love Island* and her previous presenting credits include *I'm a Celebrity* . . . *Get Me Out of Here NOW!* and *The Xtra Factor*. She has also presented *The X Factor*. Prior to presenting, Caroline trained in musical theatre.

Tom created the role of Jerry Travers in the West End musical *Top Hat*, for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical. He can currently be seen in the hit BBC drama *Casualty* and his other TV credits include *Holby City* and *Waterloo Road*. His recent stage credits include *Private Lives* and *White Christmas* in the West End.

They will be joined by Charlotte Wakefield in the role of Polly. Charlotte made her West End debut as Wendla in *Spring Awakening*, for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award. She played Maria in the critically acclaimed production of *The Sound of Music* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre receiving nominations for Best Actress in a Musical at both the Evening Standard and Olivier Awards. Her other theatre credits include *Sophie*

"Pure enjoyment" – Tom and Charlotte in *Crazy For You*



in *Mamma Mia!* in the West End, *Truly Scrumptious* in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Laurey* in *Oklahoma!*, both on national tour.

Tom says the production is enormous fun. "It's great to be working with Caroline again. I judged her on the *Strictly* tour after she won it in 2014. I didn't have to wag my finger at her and give her instructions, she was step perfect."

"This is her first musical. She's really purposeful. She didn't want the lead because it's her first one and she didn't want to jump in the deep end. But she's like a box of fireworks. You never what what colour it's going to be next."

Crazy For You is directed by The Watermill's Artistic Director, Paul Hart, with musical arrangements by Catherine Jayes (*The Color Purple*, Broadway). It is choreographed by Nathan M. Wright (*High Society*, Old Vic) and is designed by Diego Pitarch (*The Addams Family*).

It has music and lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin and a book by Ken Ludwig. It was inspired by material by Guy Bolton and John McGowan and was originally produced on Broadway by Roger Horchow and Elizabeth Williams.

Tom says: "Everything is about the casting, get that right and it's half done. In this show, you almost don't know where to look. There's something unique about this show compared to the originals. There's no orchestra or pit, the music's been learnt – imagine that, a whole Gershwin. I have to play the trumpet for four bars but the rest are brilliant. The cast have learned singing, dancing, acting and playing

"I did a tap dance and sent it out to 1,000 people. I got two responses."

an instrument at the same time. There's tap dancing, spinning and playing clean notes. How you do play a violin cleanly when you're jumping around on the stage?

"Everything you see played on stage is live and real. It makes it very, very exciting. It's pure enjoyment, pure escapism, a big bundle of fun. It's like medicine for the soul."

Tom was drawn to the stage by *Crazy For You*, which he saw when he was 15 with Ruthie Henshall. "If there was one role in my entire life at the top of my bucket list, it was Bobby," he says. "With loads of musicals, the scripts are neither here nor there. But this was written in the 1990s – when the *Die Hards* and *When Harry Met Sally* were coming out. The dialogue at that time was great with loads of one-liners. So the audience smile from start to finish. It's a classic boy meets girl, but it's the lengths Bobby goes to that makes it funny, there's a farcical element to it."

Tom is also looking forward to being back in Birmingham, where he played in *Top Hat*.

He says: "I've done *Top Hat* and *Private Lives* too. It's lovely to be back. I'd say the Birmingham and Black Country crowd have a brilliant sense of humour, they're always very warm. Some parts of the country, I can't name them, they're a little bit cooler and reserved, whereas with Birmingham the audience is ready to have a good time from the moment the curtain goes up."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your *Shropshire Star* every Friday.

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Literature festival attracts big names

Sir Tony Robinson, Peter Snow and Shappi Khorsandi are among the big names set to appear at a literary festival.

The festival will take place this weekend at Ludlow Assembly Rooms.

Attracting a host of big names, the Weekend of Words is now in its third year.

The festival will kick off with local award-winning acoustic trio Whalebone, in collaboration with poet Kate Innes, who will present a blend of music and poetry called Flocks of Words.

Headlining the first day of the festival is Shappi Khorsandi, as seen on Live at the

Apollo, Friday Night with Jonathan Ross and Have I got News for You, who will be talking about England's unsung heroine Emma Hamilton, otherwise known as 'Nelson's mistress'.

Orange shortlisted novelist Manda Scott will be discussing the lives of Boudicca and Jeanne d'Arc in her event Warrior Women. Journalist Julian Glover will be talking about his latest book Man of Iron, highlighting the untold story of Thomas Telford.

Local and renowned poet Gareth Owen will be presenting the words of Lord Byron through poetry, journals and letters.

Saturday's line up starts with

soprano Gemma King and pianist Steve Dunachie, followed by a poetry performance by Tony Walsh. Katie Fforde will be returning with her insights and tips to success to being a successful fiction writer. Andy Hamilton, presents his debut novel The Star Witness and topping the bill on Saturday is husband and wife team Peter Snow and Ann Macmillan.

To finish the weekend, the incredible Sir Tony Robinson will be coming to present his long-awaited autobiography, No Cunning Plan, on Sunday.

Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office on 01584878141 or at www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk



Coming soon...

Daniels takes on famous role

Former EastEnders star Phil Daniels will be one of the star attractions during Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's new season of shows. Future highlights at the venue include Daniels in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, as well as on-stage dinner with Christopher Biggins, comedian Jim Davidson's stand-up show, a Grand production of Turn of the Screw and the return of smash-hit musical Jersey Boys. Grand bosses have promised fans a selection of West End musicals, gripping dramas, dynamic dance and one-night concerts as part of the new season. Daniels, aged 58, stars in Robert Louis Stevenson's gothic thriller from May 1 to 5 next year. His former roles include Jimmy Cooper in Quadrophenia, Richards in Scum and Kevin Wicks in EastEnders – which saw him become a household name. On October 27, the theatre will host an elaborate dinner on stage with Biggins, presented by Midlands Today's Nick Owen. It promises celebrity guests from the world of showbiz.



The 33-piece British Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will perform at the venue on January 12, while the Roy Orbison Story will see Barry Steele recreate the vocal talents of the rock'n'roll legend.

Controversial comic Davidson will take to the stage on February 1, while The Lionel Richie Songbook on March 6 will see musicians indulge in a two-hour show featuring all the performer's greatest hits.

Theatre has big stars lined up

Comedy, musicals, singers, talks and tribute acts – Shropshire's Theatre Severn is promising a season of variety. Tickets are selling fast for the adaption of David Walliams' top selling book Awful Auntie. Birmingham Stage Company brought Walliams' Gangsta Granny to Shrewsbury last year and they are now endorsed by the Britain's Got Talent presenter and acclaimed author who has praised their productions of his novels.



The show runs this weekend. And on Wednesday next week, pint-sized pop star Lulu will be singing up a storm in the auditorium. She promises to deliver a show packed full of her hits, new songs and songs that have influenced and guided her throughout her incredible career.

On November 15, legendary rock star and founder of Wizzard, Electric Light Orchestra and The Move, Roy Wood will bring his band to Theatre Severn and show he has not lost any of the groove that made his hits so distinctive.

Rounding off the year is the annual pantomime starring everyone's favourite dame Brad Pitt. This year the Evolution team are bringing Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to Theatre Severn and the show will run from November 29 to January 7. Theatre spokeswoman Beki Poole said: "We pride ourselves on delivering huge names and top quality productions and with the support of our audiences will continue to do so for many years to come."

The Killers to play city gig

Fans of The Killers have a chance to see their heroes perform at Birmingham's Genting Arena. The band will be performing at the venue on November 6 as part of a major UK and Ireland tour. The tour follows the release of the band's fifth album, Wonderful Wonderful. The Killers recently released the video for their dazzling single, "The Man", the first taster of the new album. The video was shot in and around Las Vegas and sees the band collaborate with the award-winning director Tim Mattia for the first time. The new tour announcement also follows on from a spectacular, hit-laden surprise set at Glastonbury which saw the band return to the festival for the first time since their 2007 Pyramid Stage headline show. Wonderful Wonderful will be The Killers' first album since 2012's chart-topping Battle Born. Recorded with the producer Jacknife Lee during album sessions in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, the album is shaping up to be the band's most sonically forward-thinking record yet; an LP bursting with blazing choruses and anthems.



Portrait puts spotlight on special relationship

This autumn Oswestry's Willow Gallery brings together a collection of high quality work, including portrait and landscape artist Daniel James Yeomans' latest collection.

Daniel trained in Florence at the Charles H Cecil Studios, one of the top places in the world for the study of traditional painting.

Today he paints only from life, specialising in portraiture and inviting his sitters to experience the world of classical portraiture at his studio in Montgomeryshire. Many relationships between artist and sitter are forged here, but a particularly special one has developed with Tim Edmunds.

Ex RAF, in 2014 Tim was diagnosed with dystonia, a debilitating and isolating neurological disorder in which the muscles contract uncontrollably. Its causes are unknown. Tim struggled immensely and eventually sought refuge in keeping a journal, in which he both wrote and drew. In doing so, he became an 'accidental' artist. Encouraged by his wife, Diane, he also began an art therapy course.

He attended Daniel's open day in March, and began visiting the studio to watch the artist at work. In turn, Daniel became inspired to paint Tim's portrait. The finished work, 'Dystonia & Me; The Renaissance of Self', is now being sold to raise awareness of dystonia and its life-changing effects on people of all ages. Money raised by the sale of the painting will be donated to a charity for neurological research.

In the painting, Tim's gaze draws the viewer in. He is glancing up from his journal, busy doing something – sketching the viewer, or recording his day. Tim's own self-portrait on the wall, half-in and half-out of the scene,

The start of the portrait by Daniel James Yeomans



symbolises his efforts to keep the dystonia at bay. Then there is the presence of the cane, which on a good day he may forget but on bad days cannot do without. The placing of his journal, down the centre line of the composition, reflects its importance in Tim's life.

Tim's own response to the finished work: 'My greatest hope – that the portrait engages you as it has me. I leave you with three words when viewing – Look, Think, See,

organise them as you will, for they are in my art and I am the centre of this portrait.'

Amongst other paintings on display at the gallery can be seen Daniel's ongoing exploration of Welsh landscapes, leaving the studio behind and painting en plein air; his latest portrait commission of Jonathan Herbert, Viscount Clive; and his figure painting, 'The Model and the Artist'.

* TWO new art exhibitions have come to a Mid Wales gallery. Brighton-based artist Louise Bristow and Cardiff's Neasa Terry have set up in the Oriel Davies Gallery in Newtown. Louise, who was joint prizewinner in the renowned Oriel Davies Open in 2016, creates paintings in response to arrangements of models and collage elements assembled in her studio. She said: 'Most paintings are lies to some degree, but illusionistic ones, like mine, are especially so. The particular working process I have developed is my attempt to deceive honestly. By painting from staged scenarios of collaged landscapes and models I am not attempting to create an image of 'the real world', but an image

NOTICE BOARD

of an already orchestrated, symbolic world." Neasa has been chosen for the Litmus part three residency which is for early career artists in Wales and the Welsh Borders to research, develop and present new work. A trained printmaker, Neasa is interested in mechanical reproduction, technology and making and translating sound compositions influenced by Newtown's history of textiles. Both exhibitions run until December 2.

* A POPULAR toy and train collectors fair will be back near Oswestry. The sale

will be held at the Pavilion at the town's showground between 10.30am and 3pm on Saturday. The event has been running each March, July and October for over 11 years and is well established and is proving as popular as ever with both the traders and with the general public. This will be the third show at the venue this year but three further dates at Oswestry are already booked for next year. Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our venue in Oswestry is ideal, being large and spacious and very easily accessed from all areas. It also offers almost unlimited free car parking on the site and with level and easy access into the hall. We also have the attendance of a first-class caterer from the local area, offering

great fare at fair prices. We really enjoy operating this show in North Shropshire and being so close to north and mid-Wales, the Midlands and the north-west of England makes it the ideal location. Traders travel from all over England, Wales and Scotland to attend and it is well-known for the quality and quantity of the goods on offer."

* A TALK will take place at Gobowen Central Library and Hub today (Thursday) from 11am to noon. Marie Carter, archives officer at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, will present a talk on Agnes Hunt, a skilled nurse and innovator and one of the founders of the hospital. Admission costs £2.50 to include tea or coffee.

October 21



Strictly Come Dancing

6.35pm
The 12 remaining couples once again take to the stage to demonstrate the routines they have been practising throughout the week, as the dancing competition enters its fifth weekend.



Later - with Jools Holland

10.45pm
Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott perform tunes from their third album, Wolf Alice showcase tracks from Visions of a Life, Grizzly Bear play songs from their Painted Ruins LP.



The Chase: Celebrity Special

7.20pm
Bradley Walsh invites Jamie Theakston, Faye Tozer, Ben Cohen and Sara Pascoe to take part in the quiz, with thousands of pounds in charity donations up for grabs.



Rivers with Jeremy Paxman

7pm
The presenter explores the River Severn, visiting the largest ship graveyard in the country, taking part in a coracle regatta, and meeting a poet at the river's source.



Football on 5: The Championship

9pm
Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Bristol City v Leeds United, Middlesbrough v Cardiff City, and Millwall v Birmingham City.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** Glynn Purnell is joined by guest Brad Simpson and chefs Ben Tish and Michel Roux Sr. Jane Parkinson selects the perfect wines to accompany the meals prepared in the studio.
- 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food.** Dave Myers enjoys a taste of his native country when he and Si King demonstrate recipes using produce from Cumbria, including a supper dish made with Cumberland sausage. (R)
- 12.00 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Chelsea v Watford and Huddersfield Town v Manchester United in the Premier League.
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.15 Bargain Hunt.** Charlie Ross presents from an antique fair at Newmarket's racecourse, as experts Colin Young and Jonathan Pratt help today's reds and blues. (R)
- 2.15 Escape to the Country.** A young family searches for a new home and life in the East Sussex countryside on a budget of £750,000. Presented by Nicki Chapman. (R)
- 2.45 FILM: Madagascar (2005).** Various inmates of a city zoo escape captivity, but end up stranded on an island with no clue how to survive. Animated comedy, with the voices of Ben Stiller.
- 4.05 Final Score.** Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
- 5.25 BBC News.**
- 5.35 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 5.45 Pointless Celebrities.** With voice artists, narrators and announcers Brenda Longman, John Leeson, Peter Dickinson, Jon Briggs, Redd Pepper, Marcus Bentley, Felicity Finch and Emerald O'Hanrahan.
- 6.35 Strictly Come Dancing.** The 12 remaining couples once again take to the stage to demonstrate the routines they have been practising throughout the week, as the dancing competition enters its fifth weekend.
- 8.20 Casualty.** Connie's suspicions are piqued by the ongoing squabbles between Dylan, David and Louise, and Lily is uncomfortable with the natural chemistry between Sam and Iain.
- 9.10 Gunpowder.** New series. Historical drama telling the story of the plot concocted by Robert Catesby and his Catholic co-conspirators to kill James I. Starring Kit Harington and Liv Tyler.
- 10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches.
- 12.00 The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world, joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell.
- 12.30 The Weight Cut: Extreme Weight Loss.** Documentary exploring the dangers of "weight cutting" among mixed martial arts combatants, as a British fighter aims to "cut" seven kilograms of weight overnight ahead of a fight.
- 1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.15 How We Won the War.** (R)
- 6.45 Animal Park Summer Special.** (R)
- 7.30 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.**
- 8.00 Deadly 60.** (R)
- 8.30 Show Me What You're Made Of.**
- 9.00 Saturday Mash-Up!** With Jim Chapman, New Hope Club, Zoe Ball and Chris Stark.
- 11.00 Natural World: Animal House.** David Attenborough investigates animal architects. (R)
- 12.00 Rick Stein's Long Weekends.** The chef samples the cuisine of Berlin. (R)
- 1.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands.** How the islands in the Firth of Forth have a dramatic history of warfare.
- 2.00 Coast.** The caves and coves on Britain's coastline. (R)
- 3.00 Flog It!** Making a profit at auction. (R)
- 4.00 Mastermind.** Specialist subjects include Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials and Tony Hancock. (R)
- 4.30 The Big Family Cooking Showdown.** Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain present the second semi-final. (R)
- 5.30 Anglesey: Island Life.** Eilyn Jones takes his pedigree cattle to compete at the Anglesey Show. Last in the series.
- 6.00 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don advises on what plants need protection and how to nurture tender plants over the coming months. Plus, Carol Klein celebrates ornamental grasses. Including Weather. (R)
- 7.00 Coastal Path.** Explorer Paul Rose takes in the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting St Ives. (R)
- 7.30 Front Row.** Darcey Bussell celebrates the legacy of choreographer Kenneth Macmillan, and Stig Abell interviews Philip Pullman about his new novel The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage.
- 8.00 Britain Afloat.** Mary-Ann Ochota examines the prevalence of the punt, the flat-bottomed vessels first set afloat in the Bronze Age.
- 8.30 Dad's Army.** The air-raid wardens have to share the church hall with the Home Guard after their HQ is bombed, but Hodges' men are terribly disruptive and soon cause mayhem. (R)
- 9.00 Lucy Worsley's Nights at the Opera.** The presenter details how Bizet's Carmen, Puccini's La Boheme, Wagner's Ring Cycle and Richard Strauss's Salome swept away operatic conventions in the 19th and early-20th centuries.
- 10.00 QI XL.** Bill Bailey, Phill Jupitus and Claudia Winkleman join Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig for an extended edition of the unconventional quiz.
- 10.45 Later - with Jools Holland.** Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott perform tunes from their third album, Wolf Alice showcase tracks from Visions of a Life, Grizzly Bear play songs from their Painted Ruins LP.
- 11.50 FILM: In Our Name (2010).** A British soldier is haunted by her experiences in Iraq, and becomes increasingly paranoid about her daughter's safety. Drama, starring Joanne Froggatt and Mel Raido.
- 1.15 FILM: In the Dark Half (2012).** Horror, starring Jessica Barden.
- 2.35 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty**
- 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**
- 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**
- 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures**
- 6.45 Super 4**
- 7.00 Mission Employable**
- 7.05 Oddbods**
- 7.10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors**
- 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled!: Fangbone.** (R)
- 8.10 Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls.** (R)
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go.** Gordon tries to save two documentarians stranded in a mysterious valley.
- 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time.** Fun for children.
- 9.25 Saturday Morning with James Martin.** With guests Gok Wan and Claude Bosi.
- 11.20 Gino's Italian Escape - Islands in the Sun.** Chef Gino D'Acampo learns how simple food sustains the people of Sardinia. (R)
- 11.50 The Hungry Sailors.** Dick and James Strawbridge visit St Mawes in Cornwall. (R)
- 12.50 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 1.00 ITV Racing: Live from Ascot.** Coverage of today's race meeting at Ascot.
- 5.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** Gordon tries to save two documentarians stranded in a mysterious valley. (R)
- 5.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** An abandoned Dalmatian cross gives birth in the home. (R)
- 6.00 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 6.05 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.20 Cannonball.** Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle water-based obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup. Last in the series.
- 7.20 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh invites Jamie Theakston, Faye Tozer, Ben Cohen and Sara Pascoe to take part in the quiz, with thousands of pounds in charity donations up for grabs.
- 8.20 The X Factor - Judges' Houses.** The contest enters the judges' houses phase, as Simon Cowell, Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger and Sharon Osbourne set off for exotic or extravagant locales with their assigned acts.
- 10.20 The Jonathan Ross Show.** Singers Ed Sheeran and Rita Ora join Jonathan in the studio, along with chef, businessman and TV personality Gordon Ramsay.
- 11.25 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 11.45 FILM: Mickey Blue Eyes (1999).** A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's daughter, and is reluctantly drawn into the family business. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Jeanne Tripplehorn.
- 1.30 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 The Hungry Sailors.** Dick and James Strawbridge visit Padstow in Cornwall. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

Channel 4

- 6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid.**
- 6.40 Triathlon: Hever Castle.** The final event of the Castle Triathlon Series, held at Hever Castle in Kent.
- 7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R)
- 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R)
- 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray's Aunt Alda rekindles a family feud. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier.** An attractive psychologist dates Frasier. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** The shrink is reunited with his old Cheers gang. (R)
- 9.30 The Big Bang Theory.**
- 9.55 The Big Bang Theory.** Bernadette goes into labour.
- 10.25 The Big Bang Theory.**
- 10.50 The Simpsons.** With the guest voice of Tracey Ullman. (R)
- 11.20 The Simpsons.** Springfield gets a new telephone code. (R)
- 11.50 Come Dine with Me.** The first in a series of parties in the Lytham St Annes and Southport area. (R)
- 12.20 Come Dine with Me.** First-aider Savannah hosts the second party in the Lytham St Annes and Southport area. (R)
- 12.50 Come Dine with Me.** Performing arts teacher Mark hosts the third dinner in the Lytham St Annes and Southport area. (R)
- 1.20 Come Dine with Me.** Russian expatriate Tanya hosts Lytham St Annes and Southport's last dinner party. (R)
- 1.50 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Searching for a property in Orlando. (R)
- 2.50 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** A first-time buyer looking for a property in the Spanish province of Granada. (R)
- 3.50 Best Laid Plans.** A Buckinghamshire couple try to create a sympathetic extension for their 400-year-old cottage.
- 4.55 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** Further coverage from the 17th round of the season at Circuit of the Americas in Texas.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman.** The presenter explores the River Severn, visiting the largest ship graveyard in the country, taking part in a coracle regatta, and meeting a poet at the river's source. (R)
- 8.00 Hidden Britain by Drone.** Part one of two. Tony Robinson presents aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public, including military installations and billionaires' private estates. (R)
- 9.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** Coverage of the qualifying session (Start-time 10.00pm), as the drivers contest starting grid positions at Circuit of the Americas in Texas, ahead of the 17th round of the season.
- 11.35 FILM: The Iceman (2012).** A contract killer leads a seemingly normal life, with his family unaware of his deadly profession. Fact-based crime drama, starring Michael Shannon and Winona Ryder.
- 1.25 The Last Leg.** (R)
- 2.20 Hollyoaks.**
- 4.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R)
- 5.25 Too Many Cooks.** (R)
- 5.55 Kevin Can Wait.**

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat**
- 6.10 Little Princess**
- 6.25 Wanda and the Alien**
- 6.35 Milkshake! Monkey**
- 6.40 Milkshake! Bopping About**
- 6.45 Simon**
- 6.50 Peppa Pig**
- 6.55 Wissper**
- 7.05 Paw Patrol**
- 7.15 Bob the Builder**
- 7.25 Fireman Sam**
- 7.55 Paw Patrol**
- 8.15 Blaze and the Monster Machines**
- 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective**
- 8.55 Floogals**
- 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**
- 9.25 Shimmer and Shine**
- 9.40 Digby Dragon**
- 9.55 Peppa Pig**
- 10.00 Peppa Pig**
- 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The turtles begin to hope Splinter might have survived his battle with Shredder. (R)
- 10.45 The Gadget Show.** Assessing an affordable drone from the world's biggest drone company. (R)
- 11.40 Police Interceptors: Future Crime.** Oris Deley and Rick Edwards join police using cutting-edge technology to fight crime. (R)
- 12.40 Police Interceptors.** A foul-mouthed pensioner pushes Barry's patience to the limit. (R)
- 1.40 The A-Team.** Part one of two. A reporter is kidnapped by bandits. (R)
- 2.40 The A-Team.** Part two of two. The gang tries to rescue a reporter. (R)
- 3.40 The A-Team.** A girl is held hostage by a violent cult. (R)
- 4.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** An insight into the world of debt collection. (R)
- 5.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** An insight into the world of debt collection. (R)
- 6.40 FILM: The Bridge at Remagen (1969).** American soldiers are sent to capture a strategically important bridge over the Rhine before the enemy destroys it. Second World War adventure, with George Segal and Robert Vaughn. Edited for language.
- 7.40 5 News Update.**
- 7.45 FILM: The Bridge at Remagen (1969).** Concluded.
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Bristol City v Leeds United, Middlesbrough v Cardiff City, and Millwall v Birmingham City.
- 10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Shrewsbury Town v Fleetwood Town, and Carlisle United v Notts County.
- 10.30 FILM: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (1995).** The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of exile in a Buddhist monastery to search for a missing sacred bat in the African jungle. Comedy sequel, with Jim Carrey and Simon Callow. Edited for sexual content and language.
- 12.10 SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.
- 3.10 Notorious: The Philpott Fire - 5 Years On.** (R)
- 4.00 Killer Schoolgirl: Countdown to Murder.** (R)
- 4.50 Great Scientists.** (R)
- 5.15 Wildlife SOS.** (R)
- 5.45 Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R)

October 22

sunday



The Last Post

9pm
TTilbrook and Markham visit an important prisoner as the search gets underway. Alison confides in Honor about her affair as she finds herself unable to continue with her pregnancy.



Snowfall

10pm
Franklin is determined to recover his stolen money and get revenge on the people who took it, and Leon knows someone who might be able to help him achieve his goals.



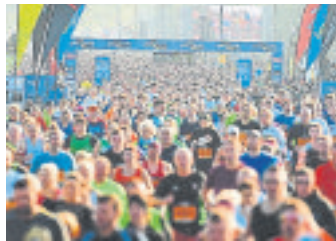
Tipping Point: Lucky Stars

6pm
Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Katie Price, Alison Hammond and Marc Baylis answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.



Sunday Brunch

9.30am
Tim Lovejoy and Simon Rimmer are joined by guests Dermot O'Leary, Rick Stein, Gregory Porter, Roisin Conaty, Angela Scanlon and Warren Brown. With music from Anne-Marie.



The Great South Run

10am
Helen Skelton presents live coverage of the race from Portsmouth and Southsea, featuring a field of 25,000 entrants including a mix of athletes, celebrities and amateur runners.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Breakfast.**
- 7.25 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Watford and Huddersfield Town v Manchester United. (R)
- 9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 **Sunday Morning Live.** Topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists and contributions from viewers.
- 11.00 **Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** From Anglesey's Mona Showground. (R)
- 1.00 **BBC News:** Weather.
- 1.15 **Homes Under the Hammer.** The presenters explore houses in Wood Lane, Stoke on Trent and Darwen, Lancashire, as well as a maisonette in Greenwich, south east London. (R)
- 2.15 **Money for Nothing.** Sarah Moore enlists the help of Mark Haig to turn a Second World War field telephone into something functional again. She also brings an Edwardian single bed into the 21st century. (R)
- 3.15 **Escape to the Country.** A couple look to relocate in the Lancashire countryside. (R)
- 4.00 **Points of View.** Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
- 4.15 **Songs of Praise.** Claire McCollum joins the crew of a tall ship in Dungannon, Co Tyrone.
- 4.50 **Eat Well for Less?** Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin head to Derby to help a family of fussy eaters who are stuck in a rut with their eating and shopping habits. (R)
- 5.50 **BBC News.**
- 6.05 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.15 **Countryfile.** John Craven and Margherita Taylor present the show from Cornwall, where they attend a food festival and meet a writer who is trying to preserve the Cornish language.
- 7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present last night's results, before the two lowest scoring couples compete in a dance-off to avoid elimination. With music from the Script.
- 8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Senate House in Bloomsbury, where experts meet a man who has flown in from Antwerp to get a carved whale bone scrimshaw valued.
- 9.00 **The Last Post.** Tilbrook and Markham visit an important prisoner as the search gets underway. Alison confides in Honor about her affair as she finds herself unable to continue with her pregnancy.
- 10.00 **BBC News.**
- 10.20 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool and Everton v Arsenal.
- 11.30 **NFL Highlights.** Arizona Cardinals v Los Angeles Rams. Caroline Barker introduces action from the NFC West match at Twickenham.
- 12.30 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 12.35 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.35 **Great British Garden Revival.** Irises and ornamental grasses. (R)
- 7.35 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don advises how to nurture tender plants over the coming months. (R)
- 8.35 **Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison visits an estate that was devastated in the 1987 hurricane. (R)
- 9.30 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 11.00 **Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking.** A selection of dishes perfect for families. (R)
- 11.30 **My Life on a Plate.** Anneka Rice's culinary memories. (R)
- 12.15 **MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
- 1.00 **Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures.** An insight into the life of the actress. (R)
- 1.30 **FILM: Suspicion (1941).** Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant.
- 3.05 **Northern Italy Unpacked.** Andrew Graham-Dixon and Giorgio Locatelli visit Lombardy. (R)
- 4.05 **Flog It!** The team heads to Dudley in the West Midlands.
- 5.00 **H is for Hawk: A New Chapter – Natural World.** Author and falconer Helen Macdonald trains a new goshawk. (R)
- 6.00 **Top Gear.** Chris Harris and Sabine Schmitz compete in a buggy race across the Californian desert, and Matt LeBlanc test drives the Ford GT. (R)
- 7.00 **Colombia with Simon Reeve.** The presenter explores the country as 50 years of civil war draws to a close, meeting farmers in need of government support and guerrilla fighters who have pledged to lay down arms. (R)
- 8.00 **Robot Wars.** New series. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present a new format for the contest featuring a Ten Robot Rumble, in which 10 teams battle to the death with no time limit.
- 9.00 **Louis Theroux: Dark States – Murder in Milwaukee.** The reporter examines gun crime and racial tensions in the US city, meeting the police department's homicide officers and families of people who have been shot. Last in the series.
- 10.00 **Snowfall.** Franklin is determined to recover his stolen money and get revenge on the people who took it, and Leon knows someone who might be able to help him achieve his goals.
- 10.45 **Mock the Week.** James Acaster, Ed Byrne, Gary Delaney, Ivo Graham and Zoe Lyons join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
- 11.20 **FILM: Glory (1989).** Oscar-winning fact-based historical drama about the first all-black regiment to fight in the American Civil War. Starring Denzel Washington, Matthew Broderick and Morgan Freeman.
- 1.15 **Sign Zone: Question Time.** David Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Dunstable in Bedfordshire, where panellists include Labour MP Liz Kendall and the chief executive of Next, Simon Wolfson. (R)
- 2.15 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** Fredrik is up against the clock to gain ground with Hanssen. (R)
- 3.15 **This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Sooty 6.10 The Aquabats!** Super Show! **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** **6.45 Super 4 7.00 Mission Employable 7.05 Oddbods 7.10 Thunderbirds Are Go**
- 7.30 **Scrambled! Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 **Scrambled! The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 **Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** A dog steals Bean's teddy. (R)
- 8.10 **Scrambled! Ben 10.** The youngster fights more colourful foes. (R)
- 8.30 **Scrambled! Be Cool, Scooby-Doo!** Adventures with the Scooby gang. (R)
- 9.05 **Scrambled! Adventure Time.** Fun for children.
- 9.25 **ITV News.**
- 9.30 **Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears.** The survivalist explores the waterways of Kakadu. (R)
- 10.00 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine.
- 10.55 **Amazing Animal Births.** Lucy Cooke learns about the breeding habits of the barn owl. (R)
- 11.25 **Robson Green's Coastal Lives.** Robson visits the coastline of North Yorkshire. Last in the series. (R)
- 11.55 **Bigheads.** Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show. (R)
- 12.55 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 1.00 **The X Factor – Judges' Houses.** The contest enters the judges' houses phase. (R)
- 2.55 **FILM: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007).** Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.
- 4.35 **Victoria.** Albert resents Lehzen's influence over the queen. Last in the series. (R)
- 5.35 **ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 5.45 **ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Katie Price, Alison Hammond and Marc Baylis answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.
- 7.00 **The X Factor – Judges' Houses.** The Judges' House phase continues, with guest judges Mika, Stormzy, Cheryl and Jack and Kelly Osbourne joining the regular panel as the acts compete for a place in the live shows.
- 9.00 **Your Song.** Emma Willis presents a one-off special in which members of the public receive private performances from their favourite stars, including Rita Ora, Paloma Faith and James Arthur.
- 10.00 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.15 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton. (R)
- 11.15 **Liar.** Andrew enlists Luke's help to set up an alibi, but Laura does not give up easily and the final confrontation between the two may have violent consequences. Last in the series. (R)
- 12.10 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 **Motorsport UK.** Richard John Neil presents action from Silverstone.
- 3.50 **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** The 12th and final round of the season at Brands Hatch.
- 5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.20 **Kevin Can Wait.** Kevin tries to reconnect with his old partner.
- 6.45 **Kevin Can Wait.** Kevin takes a job as a barman.
- 7.10 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray and Debra take IQ tests. (R)
- 7.35 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra becomes jealous of a waitress. (R)
- 8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Frank aspires to be a columnist. (R)
- 8.30 **Frasier.** The shrink struggles to reach a new audience. (R)
- 9.00 **Frasier.** Roz goes to a family reunion. (R)
- 9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With Rick Stein, Dermot O'Leary, Gregory Porter, Roisin Conaty, Angela Scanlon and Warren Brown.
- 12.30 **Jamie's Quick & Easy Food.** Recipes include sesame seared tuna and a messy meatball bun. (R)
- 1.00 **The Simpsons.** Lisa takes out a restraining order against Bart. (R)
- 1.30 **The Simpsons.** Marge goes on a girls' night out. (R)
- 2.00 **FILM: Rango (2011).** Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp.
- 4.10 **The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Specials.** Steve Jones, Scarlett Moffatt, David Coulthard, Joey Essex and Jodie Kidd compete. (R)
- 5.15 **The Great British Bake Off.** The bakers step back in time to face the test of baking with unfamiliar recipes. (R)
- 6.35 **Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Build-Up.** A look ahead to today's Grand Prix, which takes place at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, and serves as the 17th round of the season. Presented by Steve Jones.
- 7.35 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live.** Steve Jones presents coverage of the 17th race of the season (Start-time 8.00pm), held at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.
- 10.10 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Reaction.** Steve Jones, David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan analyse this evening's race, which served as the 17th round of the season.
- 11.15 **FILM: Child 44 (2015).** A secret police agent in 1950s Russia hunts for a serial child murderer in the face of an official cover-up. Detective thriller, starring Tom Hardy and Gary Oldman.
- 1.40 **Travel Man: 48 Hours in Lisbon.** Adam Buxton joins Richard Ayoade in the Portuguese capital. (R)
- 2.05 **Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson.** The Time Team presenter treks along the ancient Roman road, Dere Street. Last in the series. (R)
- 3.00 **Gillette World Sport.** Global sports action.
- 3.30 **KOTV Boxing Weekly.** Action from around the world.
- 3.55 **Mobil 1 The Grid.** Behind the scenes at the finale of Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta. (R)
- 4.25 **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help two first-time buyers. (R)
- 5.20 **Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.** (R)
- 5.35 **Countdown.** With Adrian Chiles in Dictionary Corner. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake!:** Poppy Cat **6.10 Little Princess 6.25 Wanda and the Alien 6.35 Milkshake! Monkey 6.40 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.45 Simon 6.50 Peppa Pig 6.55 Wissper 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.20 Bob the Builder 7.30 Fireman Sam 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.15 Blaze and the Monster Machines**
- 8.40 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games. (R)
- 9.30 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (R)
- 10.00 **The Great South Run 2017.** Helen Skelton presents live coverage of the race.
- 12.15 **The A-Team.** The gang infiltrates a prison. (R)
- 1.15 **The A-Team.** The gang tackles corrupt police officers. (R)
- 2.15 **The A-Team.** A motorcycle gang terrorises a small town. (R)
- 3.20 **The A-Team.** The Mob offers a reward for Hannibal's capture. (R)
- 4.20 **FILM: Daddy Day Camp (2007).** Comedy sequel, starring Cuba Gooding Jr.
- 5.20 **5 News Update.**
- 5.25 **FILM: Daddy Day Camp (2007).** Concluded.
- 6.05 **5 News Weekend.**
- 6.10 **FILM: Left Behind (2014).** An airline pilot struggles to save the passengers on his flight when people start disappearing across the world. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicolas Cage and Lea Thompson.
- 8.05 **FILM: Poseidon (2006).** A group of passengers tries to escape from a capsized cruise ship before it sinks. Remake of 1970s disaster movie The Poseidon Adventure, starring Kurt Russell and Richard Dreyfuss.
- 9.05 **5 News Update.**
- 9.10 **FILM: Poseidon (2006).** Concluded.
- 10.00 **FILM: 2012 (2009).** As the human race faces extinction in a global cataclysm, a writer tries to get his family to the last safe refuge. Disaster movie, starring John Cusack and Chiwetel Ejiofor.
- 1.15 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 **Paddington Station 24/7.** A driver raises the alarm when he suspects that his train has hit something on the line, while heavy rain brings down a tree which closes the tracks between Banbury and Oxford. (R)
- 4.00 **Cruising with Jane McDonald.** The singer embarks on a series of ocean odysseys, beginning with a stop-off at Nassau in the Bahamas, where Jane finds solace in the state's oldest baptist church. (R)
- 4.50 **Great Scientists.** Profile of 16th-century Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, famous for defending the Copernican thesis that Earth orbited the sun instead of vice versa. (R)
- 5.20 **Wildlife SOS.** (R)
- 5.50 **Chinese Food in Minutes.** Ching-He Huang helps two rugby players search for ingredients in London's Chinatown, before teaching them to prepare mushroom tofu in black bean sauce. (R)

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If you have the appropriate skills and a cheerful disposition, please visit the school website (www.ellesmere.com) for an application pack. Completed applications are to be submitted by **4pm Tuesday 31st October, 2017** and send to the Personnel and Regulatory Compliance Secretary, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB. Tel: 01691 622321 or email sharon.evans@ellesmere.com.

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This post would ideally suit somebody with previous experience however full training can be provided.

If you have the appropriate skills and experience please submit an application by **4pm Tuesday, 31st October 2017** to the Personnel and Regulatory Compliance Secretary, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB. Tel: 01691 622321 or email sharon.evans@ellesmere.com.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and expects its staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be prepared to undergo Child Protection Screening, including checks with past employers and DBS. References will be sought and verified at the short-listing stage as part of our safeguarding children procedures.

Ellesmere College is a Woodard School



Ellesmere A 7-18 Coeducational School

We are seeking to recruit a Personnel and Regulatory Compliance Secretary

The successful candidate should have excellent IT and administrative skills. Ideally, experience of Schools Information Management System (SIMS) and personnel/payroll systems would be an advantage but full training will be provided.

The post is for 31 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

If you have the above skills please visit the school website (www.ellesmere.com) for an application pack. Completed applications are to be submitted by 9am Tuesday 24th October 2017 and sent to The Personnel and Regulatory Compliance Secretary, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB. Tel: 01691 622321 or email Sharon.evans@ellesmere.com.

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2010 60	LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 3.0 TDV6 XS AUTOMATIC 7 Seater, Metallic Black, Black Leather, Sat Nav, Only 49,000 miles, FSH	£21,499
2011 60	LAND ROVER FREELANDER XS 2.2 TD4, Manual, Metallic Grey, 60,000 miles, Sat Nav, FSH	£11,499
2013 13	LAND ROVER FREELANDER DYNAMIC TD4 AUTO, Red Metallic, Red & Black Leather, 42,900 Miles, FSH,	SOLD
2014 64	MINI COOPER D hatchback, 5 Door, manual, Orange, Leather, 1 Owner, 36,000 miles	£10,999
2014 14	NISSAN QASHQAI ASENTA 1.5 DCi PREMIUM, Bright Red, 33,400 Miles, FSH, Pan Roof, Zero Road Tax,	£12,499
2014 14	NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 1.5 DCi 5 DOOR, Red, One Owner, 26,500 Miles, FSH, Zero Road Tax	£6,999
2011 11	PEUGEOT 207CC 1.6 2 DOOR CONVERTIBLE, Black, 26,000 Miles, FSH,	SOLD
2014 14	SUZUKI S CROSS 1.6 Manual, Metallic Blue, 30,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£7,799
2017 17	SUZUKI SWIFT S2L 1.2 5 DOOR, Red with Black Alloys, Sat Nav, BRAND NEW - DELIVERY MILEAGE	£11,499
2015 15	SUZUKI SWIFT SZ3 1.2, 3 Dr, White, Sat Nav, 1 Owner, FSH, 36,000 miles	£5,999
2012 62	TOYOTA HI LUX INVINCIBLE 3.0 DIESEL 4x4 DOUBLE CAB PICK UP, Silver Metallic, 38,400 Miles	£14,999 + VAT
2015 15	TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 X VVTi 5 DOOR Bright Red, 15,900 Miles, One Owner, FSH, Zero Road Tax.....	£6,299
2014 64	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SRi NAV, Hatch Back, Metalic Silver, 24,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH.....	SOLD
2015 15	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 3 DOOR, Bright Yellow With Black Roof & Alloys, 12,600 Miles	£8,499
2012 12	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.6 SRi 3 DOOR, Bright Yellow, 32,000 Miles, 18" Alloy Wheels, FSH,	£7,799
2014 14	VOLVO XC90 ES AUTO 4x4 DS, Metallic Grey, 1 owner, leather, 7 seats, 96,000 miles	£14,999
2013 63	VOLVO V60 R-Design 1.6 DIESEL ESTATE, Manual, metallic Blue, 55,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2010 10	VOLVO XC60 R-DESIGN D5 AWD AUTO, Black with Full Leather, 61,000 Miles, FSH.....	£12,999
2014 63	VW POLO MATCH EDITION 1.4 5 DOOR, Silver Metallic, 43,500 Miles, Air Con, Cruise Control, DAB Radio	SOLD
2010 60	VW TOURAN 1.6 TDI SE, Manual 7 Seater, Metallic Grey, 79,000 miles, FSH.....	£7,999

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Stylish curves in practical workhorse

By Graham Breeze

Estate cars come and go and brand manufacturers across the globe have thrown millions at making their variant a success – but will they ever compete head-to-head with Volvo?

If you have ever wondered why our motorway cops choose Volvo it's time you got behind the wheel of the new V90 D5 where you will discover a combination of Swedish luxury and the highest possible safety levels.

So it's no surprise to find the V90, which perfectly reflects Volvo's new confident image, has been voted Best Estate in the UK Car of the Year Awards 2017.

The V90 is the third model – after the XC90 SUV and S90 premium saloon – to be based on Volvo's cutting-edge SPA platform. This structure is built to provide next-generation electrification and infotainment technology, along with world-class safety.

On test was the Powerplus AWD R-Design offering class-leading connectivity, including an advanced nine-inch touchscreen and voice control system as standard. There's also the option of Smartphone Integration – which includes Apple CarPlay and Android Auto – and the exceptional Bowers & Wilkins sound system – but you'll pay an extra £3,000 for that luxury.

I've always been a huge admirer of Volvo technology and this model didn't let me down. Pilot Assist, a semi-autonomous drive technology that can take care of the steering, acceleration and braking up to 80 mph, came as standard as did a host of labour-saving devices, such as a power-operated tailgate

and keyless engine starting. And advanced technology continues under the bonnet where the D5 engine gets an ingenious Volvo-designed system called PowerPulse, which uses compressed air to give the powerful 2.0-litre engine the responsiveness of a much larger engine at low revs.

That means you get a top speed of 145mph and 0-60mph in 6.9seconds while still only emitting 129g/km of CO2 emissions and explains why you've got little chance of shaking off that motorway patrol cop.

Safety

Volvo has a vision that no one should be killed or seriously injured in a new Volvo car by the year 2020. The V90 is further proof of the company's continuing investment in and commitment to automotive safety leadership.

Volvo has become the first car maker to score a full six points in the Autonomous Emergency Braking for Pedestrians (AEB Pedestrian) test procedure and now produce Euro NCAP's top-three best-ever-performing cars.

This success is a result of the advanced City Safety system, which identifies potential hazards on the road ahead, such as vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists in certain situations, day and night.

Volvo buyers have always been impressed by the space offered in the big estate and may be a bit surprised to find less with body styling having stolen a few inches here and there. But there's still enough space to seat five in luxury and still carry enough luggage for a family holiday.

The cabin is dominated by an unusual



It's sometimes hard to believe you are behind the wheel of such a big estate car

portrait shaped touchscreen pinch-and-zoom system which can also be controlled by voice recognition – another great safety application, removing the need for the driver to take his eyes off the road.

The drive is exactly as you would expect from a Volvo – assured and extremely responsive. It's sometimes hard to believe you are behind the wheel of such a big estate car and even parking in crowded supermarket car parks is not the problem you would expect.

Models in the V90 range start from £35,865 but the PowerPulse AWD R-Design on test starts at £44,865 and extras on the test car took that to £56,085.

Packs which included a tilt and slide sunroof, parking camera and park assist pilot and a Winter pack of heated goodies pushed the price up and the Bowers & Wilkins sound system added £3,000 with metallic paint coming in at another £1,000.

The Sat-Nav system with voice control,

Sensus Connect, City Safety system, Pilot Assist and Adaptive Cruise Control, LED headlights, heated front seats, 17 inch alloys and 60/40 split folding rear seats are standard.

Volvo has moved away from the boxed look with the introduction of stylish curves which might just attract a new buyer who will find a practical workhorse, now smartly combined with the best levels of technical equipment on offer today.



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52 JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles	£3995
V JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN	EPOA

CAR OF THE WEEK

57 FORD FUSION TDCI, DIESEL, lots of money spent, proper car.	£1,995
64 CITROEN DS5 STYLE Plus HDI Convertible, Deep Plum Metallic, Alloys,	
Low Mileage must be seen	£6795 £8495
11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Black.	SOLD
08 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History	£3795 £3295
07 BMW 116 ISE 77k, Service History	SOLD
06 BMW X3 2.0 DIESEL Black	£4995
61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2 Red, lady owner Only	£3995
60 VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 35k	£3995 £3395
59 CITROEN C3 AIRDREAM + HDI Diesel, Cheap Road Tax	SOLD
58 CITROEN C3 RHYTHM 1.4 HDI Diesel, Black	£2195
58 BMW 118 SE Diesel, Grey Metallic	£5595 £4995
56 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player	£9175 £2875
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£2895
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active 1.6, low mileage, beautiful car	SOLD
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr, Silver	£2495

CONVERTIBLES

04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver	£1295
03 FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible	£1795

4x4/ COMMERCIALS

57 SSANGYONG REXTON 2.7 TDI, Silver	£3,575
02 TOYOTA RAV 4T DIESEL, Silver	£2,295
02 JEEP CHEROKEE 3.7 AUTO, Limited Edition, Low Miles for year	£1,450
06 HONDA CRV 2.0 ES V-Tec AUTO, Red	£4695 £4195
00 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDI Enterprise, Blue	SOLD
04 RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA 4x4	£1395
53 PEUGEOT PARTNER QUIKSILVER MPV	SOLD

CHEAP AND CHEERFUL/PART EXCHANGE BARGAINS

03 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI, Low Miles, must be seen	£1,195
09 FIAT PUNTO, Black	£1450
06 FORD MONDEO TITANIUM Diesel, High Mileage	£1995
03 PEUGEOT 307, Diesel	£750
W BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us	£995

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62 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM ECONETIC TDCI, BLACK, FULL SERVICE HIST. £0 ROAD TAX 40K	£7,995
12 SKODA OCTAVIA TDI SE 2.0L 6 SPEED, BEIGE, ALLOY WHEELS, SAT.NAV., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, 47K	£7,995
63 VAUX. INSIGNIA TECHLINE 2L CDTI ECO S/S, MET. GREEN, SERV. HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX, 53K	£7,495
62 HYUNDAI I30 TOURER EST. 1.7 CRDI, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX, 35K	£6,995
62 KIA SOUL 2 CRDI, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, 32K	£6,695
63 HYUNDAI I10E, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £30 ROAD TAX 6K	£6,195
15 PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £20 ROAD TAX, 27K	£5,995
61 CITROEN C4 VTR+HDI 91, BLUE, £20 ROAD TAX, 49K	£5,495
60 CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI EXCLUSIVE, MET. GREEN SERV. HISTORY £30 ROAD TAX, 53K	£5,125
09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, 33K	£5,184
10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE, 5 DOOR, MET. BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY, 61K	£5,095
61 FIAT 500 LOUNGE, BLACK, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 35K	£4,999
62 FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING, £30 ROAD TAX, 10K	£4,995
58 MINI COOPER S, BLUE, LEATHER SEATS, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTOR, 68K	£4,995
10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K	£4,995
12 SKODA FABIA SE 12V, BLACK, ALLOY, WHEELS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY, 39K	£4,995
10 CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, £20 ROAD TAX, 52K	£4,695
60 CITROEN C3 PICASSO AIRDREAM HDI, SILVER, AIR CON., CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY, 59K	£4,695
60 FORD FIESTA EDGE 3 DOOR HATCHBACK, BRIGHT RED, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY, 29K	£4,495
10 FORD FIESTA EDGE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, SILVER, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY, 63K	£4,295
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY, 75K	£3,795
08 TOYOTA YARIS TR, SILVER, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 68K	£3,495
11 PEUGEOT 107 ENVY SPECIAL EDITION, GREY, £20 ROAD TAX, 44K	£3,375
57 SKODA FABIA 1.2, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., 28K	£3,195

COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT

65 V/W TRANSPORTER 2.0 TDI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONE OWNER, 4K	£13,495
13 TOYOTA HILUX HL2 D-4D 4X4 DCB, WHITE, ONE, OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY, 58K	£10,995
64 FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM 290 ECO TECH, WHITE, SIDE DOOR 63K	£8,995
64 PEUGEOT EXPERT HDI, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, AIR CON., SHELVEING IN REAR, 40K	£7,795
13 FORD TRANSIT SWB T280 100bhp, 6 SPEED, SIDE DOOR, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, 45K	£7,495
15 CITROEN BERLINGO 625 ENTERPRISE, 3 SEATER, WHITE, AIR CONDITIONING, WINDOWS, SIDE DOOR, REAR PARKING SENSORS, 19K	£7,295
15 CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY, 38K	£6,995
62 FORD TRANSIT 125BHP SWB, 6 SPEED, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, ROOF RACK, 52K	£6,995
60 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 CDTI LWB, BLUE, AIR CON., ELEC. WINDOWS, FULL RACKING AND SHELVEING, SERVICE HISTORY, 49K	£6,995
61 FORD TRANSIT 280 SWB SEMI HIGH TOP, WHITE, ONE OWNER, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, ELEC. WINDOWS, RACKING/SHELVEING IN REAR, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, 48K	£6,495
11 V/W CADDY MAXI C20 LWB TDI 102bhp, BLUE, ELEC. WINDOWS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, DIRECT FROM BRITH'S GAS, SERVICE HISTORY, 70K	£5,695
14 RENAULT KANGOO ML 19 EXTRA DCI 90 WHITE, AIR CON, REAR PARKING SENSORS SAT. NAV., 37K	£5,650
63 PEUGEOT PARTNER PROFESSIONAL 1.6 HDI, 3 SEATER, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., ONE OWNER, 54K	£5,495
62 V/W CADDY C20 PLUS Tdi, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 61K	£5,495
14 FIAT DOBLO CARGO 1.3 JTD 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 59K	£4,495
61 REG 2012 VAUX. ASTRA VAN CLUB ECOFLEX 1.7 CDTI, WHITE, 6 SPEED, SERV. HIST., 73K	£3,795
62 PEUGEOT BIPPER S 1.3 HDI, BLUE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 60K	£3,695
08 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDDTI 2000, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ROOF RACK, DIRECT FROM BT, 63K	£2,895

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INSURANCE, IMMACULATE
CONDITION



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CON, POWER STEERING,
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Public appetite continues to accelerate

Electric and plug-in car growth goes on

New electric vehicle registration data shows that public appetite for plug-in vehicles continued to accelerate in the third quarter of 2017.

A total of 12,932 plug-in models were registered between July and September, a rise of 36 per cent on the same period in 2016 and 721 units higher than the previous record quarter, January-March 2017.

The best-ever quarterly figures follow a record September, with 7,794 plug-in models registered (27 per cent up on September 2016). This was driven by the rapidly expanding variety of plug-in vehicles offered by manufacturers, their low running costs, and the continually-improving national charging infrastructure.

Exceed

With demand continuing to increase, this year's registrations are expected to exceed the full-year total for 2016 by the end of October.

The popularity of pure electric cars continues to drive growth, with 11,127 new vehicles sold in the year so far, up 37 per cent on 2016.

Meanwhile, registrations of plug-in hybrids also showed strength, up 15 per cent for the year-to-date, boosted by 5,764 new vehicles finding homes in September (a 38 per cent rise).

The record uptake levels pushes the national total of plug-in cars on UK roads to more than 120,000, meaning EV sales now make up for 1.7 per cent of new car registrations.

Poppy Welch, Head of Go Ultra Low, said: "It is great to see that the popularity of plug-in cars continues to grow at a record pace.

"To help even more UK motorists save money and cut their emissions, Go Ultra Low is launching a new media campaign that will help UK motorists find out what type of electric vehicle could be right for them.

"A host of real-world plug-in vehicle owner case studies and eight informative videos will demonstrate how plug-in vehicles could fit into motorists' lives, even to those completely new to plug-in cars."

Award-winning executive express is rounded choice

By John Griffiths

Since it's such a familiar sight on our roads and company car parks, it's hard to believe that the BMW 5 Series has been around for 45 years.

Constant updates and technological improvements, of course, mean today's executive express is little like that original 1972 model. But it has kept its core values of understated elegance, comfort and dynamic performance which is no doubt why it has retained its popularity and its ability to win a series of 'best in class' awards.

This despite an increasing number of worthy rivals – an alternative to the Mercedes E-Class and the likes of the Audi A6 and the Jaguar XF – it has maintained its credibility in the boardrooms of Britain (and many other countries) and set a benchmark for the class. This latest model has already taken 'best luxury car' and 'car of the year' titles.

The test car was a 520d, the entry level engine and sales leader for its powerful yet economical 2.0 litre diesel engine which offers the best fuel economy and CO2 levels in the range, meaning the lowest running costs especially if you're subject to benefit in kind or company car tax.

Engineering

It came in saloon guise in M Sport trim, although there are also Touring (estate) and four wheel drive (xDrive) versions to choose from.

The list price is £39,920, although this particular vehicle was loaded with optional extras taking the actual on the road price to £49,495.

Even if you're not that interested in engineering, you can't forget that it is the engine which is the heart of the car, the bit which more than the trim gives it its character.

It isn't just its 190bhp maximum power, but the whopping 400Nm of torque which make tackling the 0 to 62mph sprint in 7.5 seconds feel not only rapid but effortless.

It reaches motorway cruising speed in a most civilised manner, while barely breathing heavily and is consequently particularly quiet – a match for petrol rivals with diesel rattle very much a thing of the past.

The eight speed automatic transmission is so smooth you won't feel it changing in normal driving, unless you press the throttle hard for a quick overtake and it drops a gear or two to deliver on your desires (although even then it's the surge of acceleration which is most noticeable).

Its official fuel economy figure is 65.7mpg with a low CO2 rating of 114g/km (good for BIK) and while these figures are based on laboratory tests, the M Sport test car managed a creditable 48 to 52mpg in a variety of real world driving scenarios.



The M Sport spec is sportily themed, with seats of plush leather

If economy is your king, though, you could opt for the SE Driving Dynamics version, which boasts 72.4mpg and 102g/km of CO2. But if it's performance you want, there's the 3.0 litre, 265Ps turbo diesel with a faster 0 to 62mph time which only a few years ago would have been bordering on supercar territory.

The test car was fitted with variable damper control (a £985 extra) which includes sport, comfort and eco pro settings. Acting on suspension, throttle response and gear changes, your selection really does change the car's character. And it's appearance, as each has a bespoke set of digital instruments – eco pro, for example, has a unique gauge helping you to drive more economically, as well as changing up and holding on to the higher gears for longer.

The test car also had a head-up display, projecting info such as speed and satnav instructions in front of the driver's eyes. This feature, part of the technology option pack, isn't only convenient it's also a safety feature as the driver's eyes stay on the road at all times.

Comfort mode, as the name suggests, gives you an even softer ride while sport makes the engine and transmission reach more quickly and dynamically.

The centre console is also home to the switch gear and 'mouse-type' controller for scrolling through a wide variety of functions on the centre colour screen, from satnav to vehicle settings, audio and connectivity. It's intuitive to use,

and simple. You also have a series remote controls on the steering wheel.

The M Sport spec is sportily themed, with seats of plush leather and a subtle combination piano black and bright metal trim items, making it a nice place to be. The front seats are big and well shaped for comfort. Their electric adjustment was again an extra, part of the 'comfort pack'.

The rear seats have plenty of head and leg room for adults, although it's probably better for two than three – with two you have a useful fold-down armrest/storage feature but a third passenger may not be too happy sitting for too long on the raised central bolster.

Boot space is a useful 530 litres, well up to class standards.

In fact the new 5 Series is bigger than its predecessor, while also being lighter which helps to enhance its rewarding handling characteristics still further, as well as impacting for the good on performance and economy.

The 520d isn't the ultimate performer in the pack, of course, but its blend of performance and running costs make it the more rounded choice for many.

While there are some fairly subtle styling changes included in this 2017 version, the new 5 Series is instantly recognisable for what it is – and that's no bad thing given the impressive reputation that the car has earned over its 45 year history.

Deer mating season driving warning

The coming weeks will see a significant rise in the risk of collisions with deer, warns road safety organisation GEM Motoring Assist. This is the time of year when deer will be breeding, a process which makes them more mobile and brings many more of them onto the roads, says GEM.

Estimates indicate that up to 75,000 deer are killed in collisions each year on roads in the UK. The human death toll from deer collisions ranges between 10 and 20 annually, with more than 400 injuries, and industry estimates put the cost of damage to vehicles alone to be at least £17 million.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth says it's at dawn and dusk when deer movements appear to peak. "We urge drivers to be on the look-out at all times, but to be particularly observant in the early mornings and early evenings," he says. "And it's important to expect deer not just on rural lanes, but also on suburban roads, main roads and motorways."

"If you know your route takes you through areas where there are deer, then expect to see one – or more than one – on your journey. In that way, the presence of a deer on the road ahead will be less of a surprise and you will hopefully be able to avoid a collision.



"Take note of deer warning signs, as they have been placed at locations where wild animal crossings are common.

"Once you have spotted a deer on the road, don't speed up and assume the risk has passed.

"Chances are that there will be other deer

close by, all likely to be heading the same way.

"You may have only a very short reaction time available in a situation like this. But don't swerve too hard to avoid hitting a deer. If a collision with the animal seems inevitable, then hit it while maintaining

full control of your car. The alternative of swerving into oncoming traffic or a ditch could be even worse.

"Finally, if you hit a deer, stop somewhere safe and report the collision to the police, who can organise professional veterinary assistance."

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Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wigan Athletic	13	10	2	25	7	31	31
Shrewsbury	13	9	4	0	19	9	31
Bradford City	13	8	3	23	19	26	26
Rotherham United	13	8	0	5	24	13	23
Charlton Athletic	12	7	2	3	20	25	24
Oxford United	13	6	3	4	22	21	21
Peterborough	13	6	3	4	22	21	21
Portsmouth	13	6	2	5	18	20	20
Fleetwood	12	6	2	4	22	21	20
Blackburn Rovers	11	6	1	4	15	9	31
Blackpool	12	5	4	3	17	14	19
Scunthorpe	13	4	4	12	9	19	19
Bristol Rovers	13	6	0	7	23	24	24
MK Dons	13	5	2	6	12	17	17
Southern United	13	4	4	5	17	25	16
Walsall	13	3	6	4	17	22	21
Oldham Athletic	12	1	7	18	26	13	26
Doncaster Rovers	13	3	3	7	15	16	12
Bury	12	3	3	6	15	18	12
Rochdale	13	2	6	5	12	16	12
AFC Wimbledon	13	3	3	7	16	14	12
Gillingham	13	2	4	7	16	10	12
Northampton	13	2	2	9	8	23	8
Plymouth Argyle	13	1	3	9	9	22	6

Vanarama National

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Macclesfield	15	9	2	4	17	29	29
Dover Athletic	15	4	1	2	10	28	18
Woking	15	1	5	23	19	28	28
Sutton United	15	8	3	4	21	27	27
Wrexham	15	7	5	3	13	8	26
Dagenham & R.D.	15	6	5	4	22	10	24
Bromley	15	6	5	4	22	10	24
Aldershot	15	6	5	4	24	17	23
Maidstone United	15	6	5	4	20	18	23
FC Halifax	15	6	5	4	16	13	23
Boreham Wood	15	6	4	5	18	22	22
M'Head United	15	6	4	5	23	21	22
Hartlepool United	15	6	4	5	15	15	22
Ebsfleet United	15	4	9	2	21	17	21
Tamworth	15	4	9	2	21	17	21
Gateshead	15	4	9	2	21	17	21
Leyton Orient	15	5	6	5	17	15	21
Eastleigh	14	3	7	4	14	16	16
AFC Fylde	15	3	7	5	22	15	16
Barrow	15	3	7	5	22	15	16
Chesham	14	2	6	12	21	11	11
Guisley	15	1	7	7	10	26	10
Solihull Moors	15	2	11	14	27	8	8
Torquay United	15	1	4	15	28	7	7

North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Harrogate	13	10	2	1	37	13	32
Salisbury City	13	9	0	5	27	25	27
Spennymoor	14	7	3	4	26	20	24
Brackley	13	6	5	2	20	10	23
York City	14	6	4	4	23	17	22
Darlington	13	6	4	3	16	11	22
Tamworth	13	6	2	5	20	19	20
Curzon Ashton	15	5	5	5	20	25	20
Bradford Park Avenue	13	5	4	4	17	16	19
Stockport County	14	5	4	5	17	11	19
Darlington	13	5	6	5	19	18	18
Kidderminster	13	5	3	5	19	19	18
AFC Telford United	13	6	0	7	19	24	18
Alfreton	13	5	2	6	21	17	17
Neaseath	14	4	3	7	20	26	15
Leamington	14	4	3	7	17	26	15
Boston United	13	3	3	7	16	25	12
FC United of Manchester	13	2	8	9	27	11	11
Gainsborough	13	3	2	8	18	27	11
Ninth Ferraby United	13	1	3	9	7	32	6

Evo-Stik League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Altrincham	16	10	3	3	36	15	33
Warrington	16	10	3	3	31	17	33
Chorley	16	10	3	3	29	13	33
Farsley Celtic	16	9	3	4	29	20	30
Stourbridge	14	8	3	3	23	15	27
Witton Albion	18	8	3	7	25	27	27
Grantham	17	8	3	5	27	22	26
Ashted	15	8	2	5	27	22	26
Workington	18	7	5	6	26	21	26
Barwell	17	7	4	6	25	20	25
Lancaster City	14	6	2	2	22	14	24
Hednesford	17	6	1	2	28	24	24
Coventry	18	6	2	9	26	31	23
Whitby	18	4	2	8	24	30	22
Buxton	14	7	0	7	20	18	21
Stafford Rangers	14	7	0	7	20	18	21
Corby	17	6	3	8	25	27	21
Mickleover	17	5	4	8	22	24	19
S'bridge Celtic	17	5	2	10	19	29	17
Marine	18	4	4	10	23	32	16
Carlisle City	17	5	1	11	28	24	16
Nantwich	14	3	4	7	17	25	13
Rushall Olympic	14	3	4	9	19	35	13
Sutton Coldfield	16	3	4	9	17	43	13

Division One South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Basford United	12	9	3	0	24	11	30
Cleethorpes	12	8	3	1	30	11	27
S'bridge Pines	13	6	3	4	33	18	21
Alfreton Town	13	6	2	5	30	22	20
Stamford	13	6	2	5	24	22	20
Frickley Athletic	11	6	2	3	24	18	20
Newcastle	13	6	2	5	20	17	20
Bedworth United	13	6	2	5	21	19	20
Corby	14	6	1	6	25	24	19
L'borough Dyn.	13	5	4	4	22	26	19
Leek	13	5	3	5	17	13	18
P'borough Spts	13	4	4	5	23	17	16
Lincoln United	12	4	3	5	20	25	15
Chasetown	12	4	3	5	16	23	15
Carlton	12	4	2	6	17	14	14
Market Drayton	17	5	1	10	16	15	12
Kidsgrove Athletic	12	4	2	6	19	22	14
Sheffield	14	2	5	7	21	33	11
Gresley	14	1	5	8	15	30	8
Romulus	13	2	2	9	15	40	8

Hallmark Security Football League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Silsden AFC	12	12	0	0	31	7	36
Preswicks Hays	12	11	1	0	27	11	34
ALD REMYCA	11	1	1	3	10	7	28
Alinder	12	8	2	2	17	26	26
Whitchurch A.	10	7	2	1	25	6	23
Sandwich United	12	7	2	3	28	17	22
AFC Walsby	12	7	0	5	24	27	21
Stockport	12	6	2	4	28	22	20
Carmel Laid	13	6	1	6	30	27	19
Abey H Walsby	13	6	1	6	18	17	18
New Mills	12	5	2	5	25	30	17
Cheadle	11	4	2	5	17	14	14
Holker Olds	13	4	2	7	17	39	14
Thaddeus	12	3	2	7	22	17	11
Bacon Borough	12	3	2	7	13	11	11
Atherton L.R.	11	3	1	7	13	11	11
St Helens	12	3	1	8	15	24	10
FC Oswestry	12	2	0	10	17	33	6

Midland Football League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Colleshill	14	10	2	2	35	8	32
B'grave Spts	12	10	1	1	17	11	28
Worcester City	12	7	3	2	34	15	24
Sporting Khalsa Ltd	12	7	3	2	29	13	24
Coventry United	12	6	3	3	30	17	21
Cov Solihull	13	6	3	4	19	21	21
AFC Wulfs	12	7	0	5	19	23	21
Stourport Swifts	13	6	2	5	28	20	20
Heanor	11	6	1	4	21	19	19
Rugby	12	5	3	4	19	16	18
Highgate United	12	5	3	4	19	16	18
Shepherd Dyn.	11	5	2	4	27	15	17
Lye	12	4	5	3	15	17	17
Westfields	8	4	0	4	18	16	12
Long Eaton United	13	3	3	8	22	28	16
Haughmond	11	3	2	6	13	19	11
Loughborough United	11	3	1	8	12	23	10
Rochester	11	2	2	7	17	31	8
Guernsey	12	3	1	8	15	31	8
Sib N'ion Ath.	12	2	2	8	10	27	8
Shawbury Utd.	11	2	1	8	14	22	7
Boldmere	11	1	2	8	12	32	5

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Studley	12	9	2	1	26	12	29
Walsall Wood	11	9	1	1	34	6	28
Hinckley AFC	12	7	2	3	41	24	23
Atherstone	11	7	2	2	31	17	23
Leicester Road	11	7	1	3	21	12	22
Ilkeston	13	6	3	4	25	17	21
Cov C'wood	13	6	1	6	19	19	19
Littleton	11	6	0	5	19	15	18
RC Warwick	11	5	3	3	20	18	18
Lichfield City	11	5	3	3	26	23	18
Heather St J.	10	5	1	4	32	22	16
Heath Hayes	11	4	3	4	32	28	15
Page Rangers	10	4	3	3	19	15	15
Littlethorpe	11	4	3	3	19	15	15
Bolehall Swifts	12	4	2	6	26	30	14
Uttoxeter	14	4	1	9	22	33	13
Stafford	13	4	0	9	19	27	12
Brocton	10	4	1	5	23	11	11
Pershore	13	3	3	7	19	27	11
Nuneaton Griff.	11	2	2	7	9	25	8
Cadbury Athletic	11	1	4	6	15	24	7
Coventry Alys.	12	0	11	9	43	6	6

West Midlands (Regional) League

Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	
W'Ton Spt Com	12	11	0	1	66	9	33
Twidale	12	9	1	2	35	12	28
Elleismers Rgs.	9	4	0	3	16	15	15
Cradley	14	8	2	4	27	21	26
BC Rangers	14	8	1	5	37	30	25
Wendesbury	14	8	1	5	34	31	25
Smethwick	14	7	3	3	33	20	22
W'Ton Casuals	12	7	1	4	48	24	22
Malvern	11	7	1	3	33	25	22
Hereford LC	16	6	1	9	33	42	19
Wellington	11	6	0	5	31	28	18
Shifnal	12	5	1	6	23	26	16
AFC Bridgnorth	13	5	1	7	22	26	16
Dudley Sports	14	5	1	8	24	36	17
Walsall Com	13	4	3	6	26	27	16
Stone OA	11	3	0	8	18	35	13
Walsley	13	2	0	9	18	35	13
Walsley	13	2	0	9	17	40	13

Four-star Welshpool breeze to cup victory

WELSHPOOL Town eased into the second round of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup after brushing aside Machynlleth 4-0 at Maesydre.

Having put seven goals past the same opponents in the league the week before, Pool completed a quickfire double to maintain their fine run of form.

Adam Davies opened the scoring for the league leaders when sliding in a cross from Will Thomas who then doubled the lead before half time with a terrific strike.

Ricky Litchfield added a third after the interval before Davies completed the scoring with his second of the game as the league leaders moved safely into the second round.

LLANSANTFFRAID VIL-LAGE went out on penalties after their home tie with Churchstoke had finished all square at 2-2.

Goals from Danny Ives saw Knighton Town progress 2-0 at Presteigne while Joel Evans fired a hat-trick as Brecon Northcote trounced Hay St Mary's 7-1, Craig Evans also netting a brace and Jack Evans the other.

There were plenty of goals as holders **BERRIEW** progressed with a 5-2 passage against Dyffryn Banw. Last season's top scorer Richard Davies continued his good form with a brace, while Matt Mumford, George Davies and Karl Seliarts also found the net.

KERRY crashed out 2-1 at Aberrymule on a disappointing day that saw them pick up two red cards and concede a couple of sloppy goals. Luke Mumford got their reply.

Harry Vince- Holt bagged a brace as Carno swept aside Montgomery 5-0 with Peter Rees, Adam Williams and Scott Williams the other contributors.

Llanidloes Town were 6-2 victors away to Newbridge after taking charge of the first half to lead 4-0.

George Clarke scored twice, while there were further goals from Matthew Savage, Rhys Evans, young debutant Callum Jones and Ryan Biggs, with his first goal for the club.

Radnor Valley put paid to Talgarth Town 4-1 while Tywyn Brynrcrug progressed 4-1 at Borth United.

Builth Wells overcame local rivals Llandrindod Wells 4-2 in a thrilling derby encounter, while Bow Street prevailed 5-2 away to struggling Penybont. Elsewhere, Aberystwyth University fell at the first hurdle, going down 3-0 at home to Aberaeron.

Saints edged out by early league leaders

ST MARTINS were edged out 2-1 to high flying visitors Worcester Raiders to remain in the lower half of the West Midlands League division one.

Looking to bounce back from their 2-0 loss at Shropshire rivals Wem, the Saints were always in the hunt but were denied by some fine goal-keeping.

Brendon Price had them 1-1 at half time in only their second home game of the season, but they were unable to capitalise on their efforts against the league leaders who took the spoils through Chris Cornes' lob and a header from Martin Fowler.

They are on the road twice the week, heading to Wrens Nest on Tuesday night, before visiting Gornal Athletic on Saturday.

ST MARTINS VILLAGE are top of the Sportsjam Regional League division one on goal difference after returning to winning ways with a 6-1 romp away to Albrighton.

Aaron Davies led the charge with a hat-trick, with Zakh Ward weighing in with a brace and Jonny Mitchell-Conlan getting the other

Guils and high-fliers locked in a thriller

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

GUILSFIELD halted high flying **Caernarfon Town's** early charge in the **Huws Gray Cymru Alliance** after being involved in a thrilling 2-2 draw at Clos Mytton.

After trailing to an early goal from Jay Gibbs, the Guils hit back to take the lead with a double strike midway through the second half courtesy of Asa Hamilton before being denied by Gibbs' second goal of the game eight minutes from time.

The north Wales visitors arrived in buoyant mood, having won nine of their previous 10 matches in all competitions, but were made to battle all the way before returning with a point. The draw took the Guils up to fifth in the table.

The Cofis began the match strongly, with Darren Thomas forcing goalkeeper Andy Wycherley into early action with the stopper rushing off his line to smother Thomas' low effort.

Sam Litchfield came to the hosts' rescue two minutes later when he hooked away a Jamie Breese cut back from the byline with Wycherley stranded, and he repeated the trick soon after to clear a Clive Williams cross.

The Guils came more into the game with Jake Cook seeing his powerful strike denied by a superb flying save near his front post from keeper Alex Ramsay. But the Powys hosts fell behind on 22 minutes when Danny Brookwell was brought down at the end of a blistering run from his own half, and Gibbs stepped up to strike the resulting free-kick into the bottom corner via a deflection.

At the other end, Chris Cathrall was foiled by Ramsay from close range on the half hour mark following good work on the flank by Hamilton, while Gibbs went close with another free kick for Caernarfon with his strike flying just wide.

Guilsfield stormed back after the break, getting back on level terms in the 66th minute through Hamilton, who beat Ramsay from close range. And they were ahead just two minutes later when Hamilton took advantage of an corner into the box to fire home a smart finish.

The striker could have increased his side's lead soon after when he took the ball off the exposed Gareth Edwards, but Ramsay struck out his hand to pull off a fine save to keep Town in it.

Caernarfon, however showed their resolve to salvage a point when Nathan Craig found Darren Thomas in the area and the playmaker delivered the ball across the six yard area, where Gibbs arrived to head in from close range.

Town pushed forward in search of the victory and twice came close to finding the winner, the first when Brookwell's cross-shot was cleared off the line by Litchfield and then, with the final play of the match, Breese saw his low effort kept out by the diving Wycherley.

Meanwhile, Caersws remain in basement danger after being grounded 5-0 at high flying Airbus UK. While Caernarfon were being held 2-2 at Guilsfield, the Wingmakers capitalised to go one point clear at the top.

It took just two minutes for Alonso Fosu-Mensah to fire the home side ahead following a stray midfield pass, and Ryan Edwards doubled the lead with a tap-in right on half time.

Steve Tomassen's volley then made it three five minutes into the second period quickly followed by a second from Fosu-Mensah.

Victory was sealed by Bailey Jackson who fired past ex-Airbus keeper Callum Hawthorne from 20 yards in the last minute.

Golf ace Ellie proving a big hit



Driving to success - rising golf star Ellie Potts in winning action

OSWESTRY student Ellie Potts is going from strength to strength after claiming a succession of notable golfing triumphs.

After performing consistently to a high standard, the junior vice captain at Henlle Park Golf Club has seen her handicap plummet from 23 to 16.

Victories include the club's ladies July medal, the ladies August

Stableford and a pink ball team competition.

The Year 10 student from The Marches School also finished third at the Shropshire Junior Girls Stableford Championships at Arscott, and third in the girls section of the SHUGC Handicap Championships at Shrewsbury.

Ellie has also represented the county's Scratch and Handicap

teams, with the highlight coming at the Midland North regional finals at Trent Lock where she was the lead-off match for the handicap team against Leicestershire which she won 2 and 1.

She recently became Ladies Summer Knockout champion at Henlle Park Golf Club after winning her final match 2up on the 18th green.

Connolly can't quite guide Rhyl to victory

MARK Connolly's first game as interim manager at Rhyl ended in a 2-1 loss at Gresford Athletic in the Cymru Alliance.

It started well enough with Alex Titchiner capitalising on a defensive slip to give the Lilywhites an 18th minute lead with his fifth goal of the season.

But the Latics hit back through Max Peate's header five minutes before the break, and Owen Roberts pounced to seal his side's third win of the season six minutes from time.

Holywell Town stayed in touching distance of the leaders in third spot with a 3-0 victory at FC Queens Park who remain deep in basement danger.

Sam Jones put the visitors on course with a fourth minute opener before Mark Winslade weighed in with a double, his first off the post on 32 minutes before sealing victory 12 minutes from time.

Queens Park were reduced to 10 men in injury time when Tony Jones was red carded for a high tackle on Jack Pennington.

Llandudno Junction continue to prop ups the table after slipping 5-2 at Ruthin Town for whom Jordan MacCarter fired a hat-trick, his first on 17 minutes before wrapping up the win with two late strikes.

Llyr Morris also scored twice, taking his league tally to 13, while the Junction gave themselves hope with two goals in four second half minutes through Rob Marshall and Dean Seagar.

Denbigh Town are going well in fourth with second half goals from Nathan Williams, Warren Duckett and Gareth Partridge earning a 3-1 victory at 10-man Flint Town United - their sixth straight win.

Gwilt puts the game to bed with winner

ANDREW Gwilt fired the only goal of the game as defending champions Waterloo Rovers moved joint top of the Montgomeryshire League division one with a 1-0 win at fellow pacesetters Four Crosses.

It is a three way split at the top with Guilsfield Reserves also sharing pole position, one point above Bishop's Castle.

A double strike from Ashley Davies helped Llanfair United reserves edge out Trewarn 3-2 to move up to fifth with Jack Lewis getting the other.

Forde United are three points clear at the top of division two after a hard-fought 4-1 victory against Llanfechain.

Mike Henderson-Smith continued his good form with two of the goals, with Josh Gethin and Christian Webster also finding the net.

Rangers leave it late for win

ELLESMERE RANGERS are well placed in the West Midlands League premier division's top three after Anwar Ologbon's late goal proved enough to earn a 1-0 win at Pegasus Juniors.

There were just 15 minutes left when Ologbon applied the final touch following a corner to seal a ninth victory from 13 league games for the Beech Grove side this season.

Rangers, without strikers Karl Bailey and Ryan Jones, are five points behind leaders Wolverhampton Sporting Community after coming out on top in Hereford.

Ellesmere host fifth-placed Black Country Rangers on Saturday before another home game, against lowly Dudley Sports, this coming Tuesday night.

Six of best sees New Saints in top spot

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

together once we got the first goal and we defended well from set plays today.

"The second half was a bit scrappy, stop start, but you can't be too critical when you score six goals."

After an untidy opening, TNS began to get into their stride with Ryan Brobbel having a shot deflected for a corner.

Moments later though, Seargeant fired the Saints into a ninth minute lead when rifling his shot past keeper Carl Jones from the edge of the box.

The chances continued, with Jones pulling off fine saves to deny Sergeant and Brobbel, before the latter helped set up the second goal on 22 minutes.

Some determined work from the midfielder on the left eventually led to Draper finding the net from inside the box to make it seven goals from his last four outings.

Routledge then made it 3-0 on 32 minutes when

neatly slotting home after good work from Mullan, and any hope of a Prestatyn comeback was effectively dashed three minutes later as Seargeant notched his second of the game following a slip from keeper Jones.

There was no respite for Prestatyn after the break as Darlington - a substitute for Draper - converted a fifth goal from close range just two minutes into the second period following good work down the right from Simon Spender.

Seargeant was denied a hat-trick by Jones, Darlington then sent a chipped effort onto the roof of the net moments later before the striker turned provider for Mullan to make it six on 77 minutes.

Three minutes from time Prestatyn pulled back a consolation as Kenny latched onto a defensive slip to round keeper Paul Harrison - the first goal conceded by TNS at home this season.

Victory was tainted by an injury to defender Blaine Hudson who was forced off 10 minutes into the second half.

Shropshire Cricket Lge announce the teams of year

THE individual award winners and divisional players of the year for the 2017 Henshalls Insurance Brokers Shropshire County Cricket League have been announced.

The divisional teams of the year have also been revealed.

Ludlow's Will Sparrow was premier division player of the year while Chris Stevens, who led Bomere Heath to the first division title and a swift return to the top division of Shropshire club cricket, took the honours in the second tier.

The Sunday division one star man was chosen to be Dave Marvell of Whitchurch's third team, with Pontesbury third teamer Dan Walker leading the way in Sunday division two.

The top run scorer was Chelmarsh's Glendinning, who accumulated 1,017 runs. Dan Bowen, who helped Whitchurch to the premier division title and an immediate return to the Birmingham League, took 64 wickets, more than any other player across all of the divisions.

Newtown's Sam Cooke was selected as wicketkeeper of the year, with Whitchurch second teamer Matthew Batkin as top fielder.

Divisional teams of the year

Premier division: Ismail Anwar (Albrighton), Tom Whitley (Worfield), Chris Miller (St Georges), Will Sparrow (Ludlow, captain), Marshall Bunting (St Georges), Scott Hale (Frankton), Sam Cooke (Newtown, wicketkeeper), Dan Cohen (Wern), John Anthony (Newtown), Dan Bowen (Whitchurch), Gareth Jones (Quatt).

Division One: Travis Keys (Bomere Heath, wicketkeeper), Graham Trow (Cound), Mike Crawshaw (Alberbury), Tom Anderson (Welshpool), Paul Chapman (Welshpool), Jamie Marindale (Beacons), Aaron Ruff-Cook (Montgomery), Robert Anderson (Welshpool), Chris Stevens (Bomere Heath, captain), Andy Holloway (Alberbury), Matt Sayers (Forton).

Division Two: Owen Morris (Pontesbury, captain), Avi Mathur (Church Aston), Jason Allen (Allscott), Gurjeet Saini (Church Aston), Mark Lewis (Pontesbury, wicketkeeper), Mike Bellamore (Pontesbury), Lindsey Rudd (Willey), Bobby Gill (Church Aston), Jason Summers (Allscott), Wayne Phillips (Allscott), Stephen Wilson (Pontesbury).

Division Three: Connor Glendinning (Chelmarsh), Neil Bennett (Trysuli & Seisdon), Andy Unitt (Chelmarsh, captain), Richard Bill (Much Wenlock), Andy Green (Calverhall, wicketkeeper), Harry Fiaz (Hodnet, Peplow & Tibberton), Vipul Kolhapure (Harpers), Tom Lea (Iscoyd & Fenns Bank), Sam Best (Chelmarsh), Craig Massey (Ludlow III), Duncan Chaplin (Iscoyd & Fenns Bank).

Division Four: Geoff Smith (Hinstock), Gareth Rich (Coton Hall), Benjamin Taylor (Bridgnorth III), Matt Lawrenson (Overton), Scott Lawrenson (Overton), Sam Griffiths (Guilsfield), Rob Lawrenson (Overton), Sam Folwell (Hinstock, wicketkeeper), Dave Sullivan (Allscott II), Alex Thomas (Bridgnorth III), Phil Clowsley (Hinstock, captain).

Sunday Division One: Dave Marvell (Whitchurch III, captain), Dan Gormley (Newport III), James Barlow (Frankton III), Russell Morris (Sentinel III), Melvin Williams (Newport III), Rhys Williams (Knockin & Kinnerley III, wicketkeeper), Rob Matravers (Cound III), Ollie Harris (Frankton III), Greg Stokes (Knockin & Kinnerley III), Vaughan Wilcox (Worfield III), Jason Whitley (Wellington V).

Sunday Division Two: Dan Walker (Pontesbury III, wicketkeeper), Charlie Ridge (Madeley III), Sam Davies (Shrewsbury IV), Matthew Wear (Shrewsbury IV), James Churns (Pontesbury III), Gary Anson (Madeley IV), Andrew Hendrick (Madeley III), Ian Hartley (Madeley III), Jack Wainsley (Madeley IV), Richard Chapman (Shrewsbury IV, captain), Anthony Gray (Pontesbury III).

Four-star win keeps Ladies in title hunt

THE New Saints Ladies kept the pressure on the leaders in the FA Women's Premier League Midlands division one with a 4-2 home victory over Radcliffe Olympic.

Lying third in the table, the Saints are four points off top spot with a game in hand after making it six wins out of seven outings.

Played at Foxen Manor – the home of Four Crosses FC – the visitors from Nottinghamshire arrived full of confidence with four wins from the last five games and took the lead in a keenly contested encounter.

Saints captain Charlotte Canlett levelled after fine work from Laura Morris, before Emily Ridge scored twice for a 3-1 interval lead.

Ridge then completed her hat-trick after the break to extend the advantage and, despite Olympic pulling one back, TNS held firm to maintain their promotion bid.

Town toasting superb win on the road

IT was a red letter day for FC Oswestry Town who leaped off the foot of the Hallmark North West Counties League division one with a terrific 4-0 away win against New Mills.

Only their second victory in 12 league games lifted Town to fourth bottom, and they will be looking for more of the same on Saturday when they host rock bottom Daisy Hill (3pm).

Joint boss Ryan Butcher praised the side after a stunning display, with winger Curtis Ise Yu again impressing with a second successive man-of-the-match display against the Derbyshire hosts.

“The lads deserve a lot of credit,” said Butcher. “They have shown a lot of of character to stick with us, and hopefully we can now kick on from this.

“Our next nine or 10 games are mostly against teams in the lower half and mid-table, and with the side we have, there is no reason why we can’t continue to climb the table.

“We have brought in some new signings which has made a difference, and Curtis is an exciting talent who makes things happen.”

He added: “We scored four against New Mills, but created a lot of chances and could have won by a lot more.

“They started well for the first 15 minutes, but we never looked back once we scored, and went from strength after that. A win like that will give us confidence.”

The Oswestry side took charge once Jack Har-

ris opened his account from the penalty spot on 24 minutes, the first of his brace, after Ise Yu had been brought down by the keeper following a Chris Bishop free kick

Bishop then doubled the lead two minutes before the break, and Harris added his second six minutes into the second period. The lively Ise Yue completed the scoring on 62 minutes to make it a happy return home for the visitors whose two wins this season have both come on the road.

FC Oswestry were chasing a first home win this week when they welcomed Chadderton to Park Hall in the Macron League Cup first round (south) on Tuesday night before basement rivals Daisy Hill visit on Saturday.

COBRA's fine record ruined in Wrexham

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA slipped to the first defeat of the season in the Welsh League division two (north) after being downed 33-3 away to an impressive Wrexham side.

Having been unbeaten in their previous five outings, three in the league and two in cup competitions, the Meifod men met their match against the north Wales outfit.

COBRA had started well enough, going close to an early score before being held up close the line, but kicked the subsequent penalty through Will Worthington.

The visitors had plenty of possession, but were unable to make it count, whereas Wrexham, with a strong pack and lively backs, were more clinical, and took their chances when they came along.

They were ahead with a good running move from their own half, the try being converted, and another well worked try saw them extend their advantage to 12-3 at half time.

After the break, COBRA's hopes of retrieving the game faded when, after they had launched a speculative kick upfield, they were left exposed as Wrexham launched an incisive counter attack to race over the line.

Bounce back

Another kick from the Meifod visitors resulted in a fourth try for Wrexham, before the home side sealed victory with a fifth touchdown, again converted, to underline their title credentials.

After tasting a first defeat, COBRA will look to bounce back at home to Bangor on Saturday, with their visitors - who crashed 61-12 to Denbigh last week - suffering mixed campaign.

The following week, the Llanfair outfit host Pembrokeshire side Crymych II in the third round of the WRU Bowl.

After notching their first win in their last action, **WELSHPOOL** were edged out 19-13 at Rhyl to remain in the lower reaches of the Welsh League division two (north).

Leading 13-12 at the break, Pool were left to reflect on missing a golden chance to record their second victory of the campaign after conceding more than 30 penalties throughout the encounter.

They took the lead with an unconverted try from scrum half Ieuan Harris, before a penalty



COBRA prop Hywel Jones on the charge in his side's 33-3 defeat away to Wrexham. ■ Pic: Trevor Jones.

and try from fullback Harry Davies gave them a one point lead at half time.

But they failed to add to their tally after the break due to lack of discipline, with Rhyl edging ahead to finish with three tries to two from their visitors who

at least gained a losing bonus point from their trip to the north Wales coast.

On Saturday, Pool now face a tough fixture at home to Wrexham, who have defeated Denbigh and COBRA in their last two outings.

Oswestry mixed team return with draw

TENNIS by John Bridgwater

and went down in straight sets 3-6, 2-6 to leave the overall result two points apiece for each team.

The fourth mixed team competed against a very strong team from Market Drayton in their latest home fixture in 6N.

Although the team fought bravely, they were overpowered by their opposition and suffered a 4-0 defeat.

The first pair of Craig Nurse and Amanda Coxhead managed to take the first set in one of their rubbers before losing out on the deciding third set tie break 6-4, 5-7, 0-1. They then dropped the second rubber in straight sets 3-6, 4-6.

The second pair of Craig Shrothern and partner Jo Dalietos went down in both their rubbers in straight sets 4-6, 3-6 and 3-6, 1-6.

The fifth mixed team had reverse fortunes when

Llanrhaeadr win the spot prize against title rivals

ON-SONG Llanrhaeadr moved up to second spot in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a hard-fought 3-2 win over title rivals Llanfair United.

With nothing between the sides at 2-2, the hosts were awarded a penalty for an infringement following a corner, and sub Iain Edmunds coolly put away the spot kick.

Llanfair had started well and took a seventh minute lead through Ben Jones, but Llan were back on terms courtesy of Khyam Wyton on 20 minutes.

The hosts then lost striker Dan Graham with a hamstring injury, but his replacement Iwan Matthews put Llan ahead.

Llanfair battled hard in the second period and got back on terms with a Paul Griffiths strike before the outcome was decided by a dubious penalty which Edmunds dispatched.

The game, an excellent advert for the Spar League, was the only league fixture of the day, with Llanrhaeadr now just two points off the pace.

Llanfair were unable to make ground as they remain fifth, and seven points adrift of leaders Welshpool Town.

Earlier in the week, **BERRIEW** hit the goal trail as they thrashed Churchstoke 7-1 to climb towards mid-table in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Richard Davies made it back-to-back hat-tricks. Stefan Rogers also netted twice along with Dewi Hughes and Steve Roberts.

Returns from Shropshire golf clubs

HENLE PARK

Individual Stableford Division 1: John M Evans 38pts; Cass Beithwell 37pts; David Jones 34pts; Division 2: David Butler 40pts; Daniel Thomas 38pts; Phillip Davies 34pts; Division 3: Roger Harris 38pts; Stephn Morris 35pts; Gary Jones 33pts.

Team Comp of 3 Stableford: Colin Forsyth, Ian Griffiths & Gary Jones 82pts; Andrew Maxted, Mark Pritchard & Dafydd Edwards 81pts; Michael A Jones, Roger Harris & Daniel Williams 80pts (cb).

Ladies' Sylvia's Salver: Jill Andrews 32pts; Pam Tattersall 29pts; Beth Pritchard 28pts.

Seniors' Individual Stableford 1: Chris Andrews 37pts; Andy Hardy 34pts; Des Parry 34pts; Division 2: Mel Morris 33pts; Steve Jones 32pts; Graham Wood 31pts.

LLANMYNECH

October Medal Division 1: Allen Lewis 73-7=66; Dan Jones 73-6=67; Rhodri Jones 80-12=68; Dave Griffiths 74-5=69; John R Evans 78-9= 69; Colin Preece 77-8=69; Division 2: David Hughes 84-15= 69; Phil Jones 85-16=69; Garry Owens 83-13=70; Peter Whale 86-16 =70; Andrew G Williams 84-13=71; Charlie Jones 84-12=71; Division 3: Martin Owen 89-20=68; Darren Bridgett 97-27=70; Laurence Cook 89-19=70; Steve Ostrowski 94 -19=75; Mike Shakeshaft 99-22=77.

Open Texas Scramble: Chris Holmes, Tom King, Chris Field & Sam Roberts 53.1 (Llanymynech GC); M Harris, S Taylor, A Trail & A Bos-tock 55.1 (Walmley GC, Sutton Coldfield); Simon Lander, Dave Hughes, Mike Dodd & Andy Williams (Market Drayton GC & Shifnal GC) 55.3

Ladies' All Winners Salver Medal Winner: Tanya Cook 88-13=75. Runner up: Rachel Pritchard 87-10=77.

Alternate Medal Winner: Lorraine Jones 93-14=79. Runner-up: Mal Beckett 100-18=82.

October Medal Division 1 Winner: Norma Hughes 87-15=72. Runner-up: Carol Grivell 92-16=76; Division 2 Winner: Ruth Bell 104-29=75. Runner Up: Julie Gibson 103-27=79; Division 3 Winner: Annie Prince 110-33=77. Runner-up: Diana Chadwick 110-31=79.

Granny Bell: Norma Hughes.

OSWESTRY

October Medal Division 1: Darren Pardoe 75-5=70 (cb); Paul Pardoe 73-3=70 (cb); Matt Knapper 75-5=70 (cb); Daniel Haycocks 75-5=70 (cb); Chris Male 75-5=70; Paul Huggett 77-5=72 (cb); Division 2: Darryl Hopton 81-12=68; Sean Jones 85-12=71; Goronwy Griffiths 86-14=72; Stuart Foulkes 85-11=74; Bryan Pughe 88-13=75; Richard Roberts 88-12=76 (cb); Division 3: Michael Hughes 82-17=65; David Hughes (Wton) 87-20=67; Mike Edge 87-16=71 (cb); Stephen Pearce 87-16=71; Steven Pierce 96-24=72; Steven Chambers 97-24=73. Best Gross: Gareth Evans 72.

Alice Kempster Rosebowl Four-somes Medal: Marie Male & Judy Foster 100-27=73; Mary Allford & Tess Hyde 100-26-73=75; Lyn Hughes & Gwyneth Bains Jones 104-29-74=75; Pauline Davies & Sheila MacKenzie 101-29-75.

Nine Hole competition: Jean Williams 14pts, Sue Tyley 10pts.

Sport

Bowls
Wynnstay winners
in the picture – P37

Golf
Ellie proves she's
a big hit – P38



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Llanrhaeadr missing star striker Dan

IN-FORM striker Dan Graham will miss Llanrhaeadr's testing trip to Knighton Town in Saturday's third round of the FAW Trophy.

The forward was forced off with a hamstring strain in his side's 3-2 victory over Llanfair United, and could be out for several weeks with the injury.

Despite Graham's absence, Llanrhaeadr will look to continue their recent form which has taken them to second in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Llanfair, who have now lost their last three outings in all competitions, will hope to bounce back when they host Spar rivals Bow Street in their third round encounter.

Elsewhere, Llansantffraid Village face a tough trip to high flying Llanidloes Town, while Berriew visit Radnor Valley and holders Chirk AAA welcome Penryn-ndeuadraeth.

Berriew boss Dave Jones, whose side also entertained Llanrhaeadr in the Montgomeryshire Cup in the midweek, will hope to maintain the momentum.

"We have won the last three games in a row and have hit a bit of goalscoring form at last, which will be important with two very tough games this week," he said.

"Radnor are a much improved team this season and have a lot of very good players, particularly attacking wise. It will be a very tough game, and we will need to be at our best if we are to be in Monday's fourth round draw."

With several of their rivals involved in Trophy action, **WELSHPOOL TOWN** will look to move further clear at the top of the Spar Mid Wales League division one when they host Borth United on Saturday.

Kerry look for better fortunes when they hit the road to Aberaeron and Churchstoke welcome struggling Machynlleth.

Former TNS bosses to clash in FA Cup

TWO of the most successful managers in the history of the Welsh Premier – Craig Harrison and Ken McKenna – come face to face in the first round of the FA Cup next month.

Between them, they won a total of nine Welsh Premier titles as well as five Welsh Cups and five League Cups.

Harrison left the Saints in May to take over at National League side Hartlepool United who this week landed an FA Cup trip to League Two club Morecambe where McKenna is assistant.

McKenna led TNS to three runners-up spots in the Welsh Premier League before winning three successive titles in 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2006/7 as well as Welsh Cup success against Carmarthen in 2005 and the League Cup in 2005/6.

Harrison became director of football at TNS in December 2011 and went on to steer the club to a host of honours, including six consecutive league titles, three Welsh Cups and five League Cups.

New Saints boss wants more top form

THE New Saints are back in familiar territory at the top of the JD Welsh Premier – and boss Scott Ruscoe has challenged his side to stay there.

The defending champions took over pole position, moving one point clear of previous pacesetters Bangor City, with last weekend's 6-1 romp over Prestatyn Town.

Since an opening day defeat, the defending champions have quickly got back on track with six wins and two draws from their last eight games – while scoring 22 times with six clean sheets.

They now head to lowly Aberystwyth Town on Friday night (7.45pm), and manager Ruscoe

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

now wants his side to cement their place at the summit.

"The message to the players is to make sure we stay top, that's where we want to be," he said.

"Hopefully we can get some momentum and put daylight between us and the other teams. We've enjoyed playing at Aberystwyth, even when it was a grass pitch. We've got a good record there, and hopefully we can keep that going."

"Aber may have had a tough start to the season,

but they got their first win last week, and will be feeling a lot better, so we definitely won't be taking them for granted."

The Saints have racked up 13 goals against the Seaside in their last three away meetings, while conceding just one. With previous leaders Bangor City playing Prestatyn on the same night, TNS will want to avoid any slip-ups to ensure they go into the weekend still top of the pile.

TNS' home tie with Queen of the South in the quarter-finals of the IRB-BRU Cup will be screened live on S4C on Sunday, November 12 (2.45pm).

CLARKE TIPPED TO SHINE IN OZ

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

STEVE Rhodes is backing Worcestershire's young wicket-keeper-batsman Joe Clarke to "have a big winter" with England Lions who will be heading Down Under next month.

Former Oswestry player Clarke will be part of a Lions training camp in Australia in November and December which runs alongside the senior squad who will be preparing for the Ashes.

The 21-year-old has been a regular member of the Lions set-up for the past two years since first appearing against Pakistan A in the UAE.

Worcestershire's director of Cricket Rhodes believes Clarke has become a better player during the past 12 months after the Lions asked him to work on certain aspects of his game.

"He was a little bit unlucky last winter in that he got a little injury that he played with when he kept wicket for Ben Foakes," said Rhodes.

"Because he kept wicket and he had a little injury, it meant he batted No 7 and suddenly the other guys had a chance – and they took their chance. Hopefully this time he will be getting a proper middle order spot, hopefully No 4, his true position, and he will show what he can do."

"He is a better player now than he was last year and the reason for that is he has worked on some areas they wanted him to work on but he wanted to work on."

"He is generally a tighter player but he hasn't lost any of his aggression, so he is in a far better spot technically as well as mentally, and you know what, I think he will have a big winter."

Rhodes added: "He knows he has got to do well. The only issue he will have is if he tries too hard and doesn't let his natural self and talent come through."

Clarke is in a 17-man squad that includes three players that featured in England's Test summer – Mark Wood, Tom Westley and Keaton Jennings.

Olympians hit ground running



The Oswestry Olympians ladies with team manager Margaret Morris and Ali Tickner

OSWESTRY Olympians laid down an early marker in the first race of the North Wales Cross country season at Wrexham.

There was an excellent turn-out, especially from the club's ladies, who not only had the numbers but the performances to match.

Ali Tickner led the way with an excellent win with support from Charlotte Jones and Jacqui Gears who secured top 20 finishes. There were also great debut runs from Louise Woolcock, Amy Penn, Tracy Roberts and Jo Biffen.

In a competitive mens field, Tom Heard, Peter Jones, Tim Tansley and Tim Gears all

broke into the top 50.

After the first race, the Olympians Ladies are lying first in division one, and the men lie third in division one and third in the Master championships.

Results (Olympians only) – Ladies (115 finishers): 1st Ali Tickner; 9th Charlotte Jones 3rd 40; 14th Jacqui Gears 4th 40; 28th Louise Woolcock 2nd 35; 31st Amy Penn 8th SL; 34th Lou Williams 3rd 35; 46th Tracey Roberts 8th 40; 49th Yvonne Hill 2nd 50; 54th Susie Hancock 6th 55; 58th Jules Lloyd Evans 9th 45; 66th Ashling Donohue-Harrison 14th SL; 77th Jo Biffen 17th SL; 81st Sarah Greaves 2nd 60; 100th Kelly Clarke 14th 40.

Men (164 finishers): 1st Matthew Willis Wrexham AC U/20; 20th Tom Heard 1st 35; 29th Pete Jones 6th 40; 33rd Tim Tansley 7th 40; 46th Tim Gears 10th 40; 60th Brian Rothero 9th 45; 66th Rich Davies 24th SM; 72nd Ian. Lowe 11th. 45

Defensive duo missing Guils' trip

GUILDSFIELD will be without two central defenders when they embark on Saturday's Huws Gray Cup first round trek to Holyhead Hotspur.

Having lifted the trophy in 2011, the Guils can take confidence from their fine 2-2 home league draw with title chasing Caernarfon Town last weekend.

But they have defensive issues for this weekend's trip to Anglesey with both Robbie James and Sam Litchfield missing from the side.

Boss Nathan Leonard is hoping to bring in a versatile player on loan in time for the cup clash, which sees the villagers facing another tough tie on the road.

They showed their mettle to finish 2-2 with Caernarfon last Saturday, with Asa Hamilton scoring twice, and were only denied by Jay Gibbs' second goal of the game eight minutes from time.

"I was gutted we didn't win in the end, but I would have taken a point before the game," said Leonard.

"Being 1-0 down at half time, it was a good response from the lads in the second half. We had them on the ropes for 20 minutes and had a chance to make it 3-1."

"When you are playing a quality side like Caernarfon, you know the threat they carry going forward, and perhaps we sat back a bit too much at the end which is only natural."

"But it was a good game, and if we show that kind of work-rate every week, then we are capable of winning most games we play."

Eagles hit road in confident mood

OSWESTRY will look to consolidate their top five position in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two when they visit Oldershaw on Saturday.

After reeling off three wins on the road this term, the Eagles make the trip in good heart against a side lying 13th in the table.

The team had an unexpected weekend off as their North Mids Shield tie with Veseyans was postponed as their visitors had prior league commitments. It will be rescheduled for another date.

After tasting a first defeat of the season, **COBRA** will look to bounce back at home to Bangor on Saturday with their visitors reeling from a 61-12 hammering at the hands of Denbigh.

The following week, the Llanfair outfit host Pembrokeshire side Crymch II in the third round of the WRU Bowl.

That weekend, the Meifod club are providing marshals for the World Rally Championships, and anyone interesting in helping out on the Saturday (midnight to 11pm) should contact the club.

WELSHPOOL, meanwhile, face a tough fixture at home to Wrexham, who have defeated Denbigh and COBRA in their last two outings

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